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General Assembly
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Items 15, 17, 34, 60, 109 and 127 of the provisional agenda*

The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

Macroeconomic policy questions

The situation in the Middle East

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 19 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a letter dated 14 August 2016 from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, to which are attached the resolutions issued by the Arab League Council at its 27th ordinary session, held at the summit level in Nouakchott on 25 July 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under items 15, 17, 34, 60, 109 and 127 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) El Hacen **Eleyatt**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Chairman of the 27th ordinary session of the Arab League Council
held at the summit level in Mauritania on 25 July 2016

* A/71/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Summit 27/(16/07)/68-W(0354)

League of Arab States

Secretariat
Secretariat for the Affairs of the Council of the League

Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level
Twenty-seventh ordinary session
Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania
20 Shawwal A.H. 1437 AH (25 July A.D. 2016)

- Resolutions
- Declaration of Nouakchott
- Statement of His Excellency Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, at the opening session
- Statement of His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, at the opening session.
- List of names of Arab leaders and heads of delegations of the Arab States participating in the summit (27th ordinary session)

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Resolutions

Political affairs

Resolutions submitted to the summit

Item 1 — Report of the Chair of the summit on the activities of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments (resolution 639)

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Chair of the summit on the activity of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments,
- The final report of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments,

Acting in accordance with the statute of the Committee,

Decides

1. To thank His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chair of the 26th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, for overseeing efforts to follow up implementation of the resolutions of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit (2015);

2. To thank the States members of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments and the Secretary-General for their valuable efforts in following up the implementation of the resolutions of this summit.

(*Summit resolution 639 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 2 — Report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action (resolution 640)

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Having heard the statement delivered by the Secretary-General to the opening session,

Decides

To welcome the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and to thank the Secretary-General and his staff for its preparation.

(*Summit resolution 640 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict

Item 3 — Follow-up to political developments concerning the question of Palestine, the Arab-Israeli conflict and promotion of the Arab Peace Initiative (resolution 641)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The previous resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level on this topic, the recent being resolution 7992 (145th ordinary session, 11 March 2016) and resolution 8043 (extraordinary session of 28 May 2016),
- The recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the Council of the League at the summit level, the most recent being resolution 614 (26th ordinary session, Sharm el-Sheikh) of 29 March 2015),

Decides

1. To reaffirm the centrality of the question of Palestine to the Arab nation as a whole, as well as the Arab identity of occupied East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine;

2. To affirm that a just, comprehensive peace is a strategic choice and that it can only be achieved by ending the Israeli occupation of all Palestinian and Arab territories; enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable right to self-determination and to establish an independent, fully sovereign State of Palestine; releasing all political prisoners from occupation prisons; and resolving the question of the Palestine refugees on the basis of international law, internationally recognized resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the resolutions adopted at successive Arab summits;

3. To reaffirm the sovereignty of the State of Palestine over all Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, as well as its airspace and territorial waters and borders with neighbouring countries;

4. To extend full support and stand in solidarity with the valiant Palestinian people, which resolutely and determinedly stands up to myriad daily Israeli attacks and aggressions against its land, sacred sites and property;

5. To warn Israel, the occupying Power, that it must not continue to antagonize Arabs and Muslims throughout the world through the dangerous escalation of its illegal policies and measures, which are aimed at Judaizing the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and dividing it spatially and temporally; to regard any laws aimed at entrenching such measures as null and void; and to warn that such schemes could spark a religious conflict in the region, a development for which Israel, the occupying Power, would bear full responsibility;

6. To condemn all crimes committed by the Israeli occupation Government against the Palestinian people; to call on the international community, particularly the Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, directly responsible for the crimes and terrorism committed by the occupation government and settlers against the defenceless Palestinian people and its property; to call for international human rights law and international humanitarian law to be applied in Palestinian territory and for the perpetrators of such crimes to be referred to the International Criminal Court;

7. To welcome international and Arab efforts aimed at ending the Israeli occupation, particularly the French initiative undertaken in the context of the international ministerial meeting held in Paris on 6 March 2016. The meeting issued a joint statement stressing the need for a comprehensive end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967; the settlement of all permanent status issues on the basis of Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973); the importance of implementing the Arab peace initiative and following up the French initiative by holding an international peace conference before the end of 2016 with a view to formulating a multilateral international mechanism to fully end the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine and the Arab territories occupied since 1967 in accordance with specific time frames to be agreed and implemented. The European Union has welcomed the French initiative and expressed its support for it and for the recent Egyptian efforts to advance the peace process;

8. To call on the members of the Quartet on the Middle East to: review its position and reconsider its report issued on 1 July 2016, much of the content of which is biased towards Israeli positions and equates the occupation authority with the Palestinian people under occupation; comply with the terms of reference of the peace process, United Nations resolutions and international law, and take action on that basis in order to resolve, rather than manage, the conflict; and support the convening of an international peace conference, in accordance with the French initiative, which is aimed at creating a multilateral international mechanism to end the Israeli occupation within a specified time frame;

9. To call on the Group of Arab States at the United Nations and the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is the Arab member of the Security Council, to continue working with international and regional groups and States members in the Security Council to ensure that the Security Council does not endorse the last report of the Quartet;

10. To call for the continuation of Arab efforts approved at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit (26th ordinary session) by resolution 615 of 29 March 2015, to make contacts and hold consultations in order to once again mobilize the international support required for the Security Council to consider a resolution that reaffirms the commitment to the foundations, principles and terms of reference of the Arab Peace Initiative and the principle of the two-State solution, sets a timetable for ending the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine and achieving a final settlement, and establishes an international monitoring mechanism to ensure that the resolution is implemented faithfully; and to continue consultations to that end with States members of the Security Council and with regional and international groups;

11. To request the reduced Arab Ministerial Committee on ending the Israeli occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine to propose and work for the adoption of a new draft resolution in the Security Council condemning the Israeli colonial settlement in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine;

12. To call on the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to assume their responsibilities and enforce compliance with the Convention in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, including in East Jerusalem, by putting an end to Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law; and to also call on the High Contracting Parties to hold a conference that leads to the creation of an international protection system, as a follow-up to the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention held on 17 December 2014;

13. To urge the Security Council to adopt a resolution on providing international protection to the Palestinian people, and to implement its relevant resolutions, particularly resolutions 904 (1994) and 605 (1987), which affirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention in Palestinian territory and underlined the need to provide international protection in Palestinian territory, including in Jerusalem;

14. To propose the creation of an international protection regime in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine at an emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 377A(V) ("Uniting for Peace");

15. To call on the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to coordinate and consult with international actors to support the Palestinian leadership's request for international protection for the Palestinian people; and also to call on them to work with the international community in order to ensure that an international resolution is adopted on providing the Palestinian people with international protection from the illegal measures of and the violations committed the Israeli occupiers and the terrorism perpetrated by occupying Israeli army and the settlers;

16. To denounce the nomination and election of Israel, the occupying Power, to chair the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly on the grounds that Israel, the occupying Power, is not qualified to assume such a post, particularly given that it has a black record of violations of international law, international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions, and commits daily crimes against the Palestinian people and its land, property and sacred sites;

17. To request the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, in consultation and coordination with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to continue taking appropriate measures to ensure that the violations, attacks and crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian people are monitored and documented, in preparation for taking appropriate legal action; and to call for the convening of further meetings of Arab experts on international law, in order to put in place an appropriate mechanism for taking such action;

18. To support the efforts of the State of Palestine to become a member of international organizations and to accede to international treaties and covenants, as

doing so is the legitimate right of the State of Palestine, and to support the request of the State of Palestine to join the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL);

19. To urge the Prosecutor of International Criminal Court to complete the investigative phase of the cases referred to the Court by the State of Palestine;

20. To reaffirm its categorical and absolute refusal to recognize Israel, the occupying Power, as a Jewish State; to condemn all illegal Israeli measures aimed at changing the demographic and geographical composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem; and to warn of the perils of that racist approach and its grave repercussions for the Palestinian people and the region, as it violates all the terms of reference for peace and the spirit of the Arab Peace Initiative;

21. To reject any proposal for the creation of a Palestinian State with provisional borders or the partition of Palestinian territory; to stress that is necessary to respond to Israeli schemes to separate the Gaza Strip from the rest of the State of Palestine; and to warn all parties against persisting with such schemes;

22. To continue to support the resolutions adopted by the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization calling for a review of all Palestinian political, economic and security relations with Israel, the occupying Power, so as to compel Israel to comply with the instruments that it has signed and to respect international law and authoritative international resolutions;

23. To affirm respect for the legitimate Palestinian national authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas; to praise the efforts of President Abbas to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation; to emphasize the commitment to unified Palestinian representation, in order to preserve the Palestinian people's gains and rights; and to stress that maintaining a unified Palestinian national front under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, is the best way to safeguard Palestinian national rights;

24. To urge all Palestinian factions to form a Palestinian national unity Government that is capable of responding to challenges carrying out its duties on the ground; and to further urge them to hold general election in accordance with the agreements concluded by the factions;

25. To condemn the Israeli Government's policy of applying Israeli law to the settlements established on land belonging to Palestinian citizens in the occupied state of Palestine, which implies the annexation of that land; to condemn Israeli efforts to expand the annexation of Area C, which accounts for 60 per cent of the territory of the occupied West Bank; and to warn that continuing work on the illegal E1 settlement project, the completion of its infrastructure and Israel's intentions and plans for gradual construction, is merely the culmination of a systematic policy aimed at Judaizing East Jerusalem and isolating it from its surroundings, and dividing the West Bank into two separate parts, thereby completely precluding the principle of the two-State solution;

26. To stress that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) must continue to fulfil its responsibilities

towards the Palestine refugees without reducing its services; to call on States members and donor organizations to assist UNRWA and provide support for its budget;

27. To support the steadfastness of the Palestinians who remained in Palestine after 1948 and their defence of their rights against the provocative and racist policies and laws of the Israeli Government, which have been condemned, against the Palestinian people; and to call for 30 January of each year to be declared an international day of solidarity with the Palestinians who remained in Palestine after 1948;

28. To call for Arab and Islamic governments, parliaments and federations to continue their joint efforts to increase international recognition of the State of Palestine; to call on States that have not recognized it to do so; and to thank all States and parliaments that have recognized the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital;

29. To stress that any resumed negotiations aimed at resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict must be based on clear terms of reference and a defined time frame for ending the Israeli occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, backed by international guarantees;

30. To affirm that it condemns and opposes any State, institutional or corporate policies or positions that violate international law, undermine the principle of the two-State solution and support the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine; to call on States, institutions or corporations that have adopted such policies or positions to reconsider them; and to stress the need to put in place a mechanism to respond to such policies and positions;

31. To request the Group of Arab States in Geneva to continue urging States and various regional groups to in favour of resolutions concerning Palestine in the Human Rights Council; and to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent commission of inquiry;

32. To commend the efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to declare 2017 the international year to end the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and to call on States members and the Secretariat to work to ensure that the United Nations adopts that initiative;

33. To request the Group of Arab States at the United Nations to continue:

- To follow up on efforts in the Security Council aimed at ensuring that it shoulders its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, end the occupation, and put an end to all unlawful Israeli practices;
- To follow up on efforts to have the Security Council adopt a legally binding resolution that condemns colonialist, expansionist Israeli schemes and settler terrorism, and calls for a halt to all settlement activity;
- To mobilize support in the General Assembly for resolutions concerning the question of Palestine and all other efforts to end the Israeli occupation of all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories;

- To follow up the request of the State of Palestine to be granted full membership in the United Nations;
- To call on the United Nations to continue documenting the rights and property of refugees in the historic land of Palestine, and preserving and updating such records, including land registries, in order to ensure a just solution to the plight of the refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III);
- To call on the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities and take the measures required, through an appropriate mechanism, to prevent the disposal of the property of Palestine refugees in the territory of Palestine that was occupied in 1948, as any such disposal is null, void and illegal.

*(Summit resolution 641 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)**

Item 4 — Follow-up to developments (Jerusalem, settlement, separation wall, intifada, refugees, UNRWA and development (resolution 642))

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The previous resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level on the topic, the most recent of which is resolution 7856 (145th ordinary session) of 11 March 2016,
- The recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the Council of the League at the summit level, the most recent of which is resolution 616 (26th ordinary session, Sharm el-Sheikh) of 29 March 2015,

Decides

I. Jerusalem

1. To reaffirm that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine, reject any attempt to diminish Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and reaffirm that peace and security in the region will not be achieved unless Israel withdraws from occupied Palestinian territory, particularly East Jerusalem, in implementation of United Nations resolutions;

* The Republic of the Sudan registers a reservation to any mention in this resolution of the International Criminal Court. It submitted an explanatory memorandum in this regard to the Secretariat. The memorandum was circulated to the permanent delegations under Memorandum No. 3999/5 of 27 July 2016 of the Secretariat (Secretariat for the Affairs of the Council of the League).

2. To strongly condemn and absolutely reject all illegal Israeli policies and plans to annex the Holy City, alter its Arab identity, alter its demographic composition and isolate it from its Palestinian environment; and to call on the international community to implement relevant United Nations resolutions and to adopt decisive measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cancel all measures that undermine security and peace in the region;

3. To reject and condemn all violations by Israel, the occupying Power, of Islamic and Christian holy sites, particularly attempts to change the legal status of al-Aqsa Mosque and divide it temporally and spatially, undermine the freedom of Muslims to worship in the mosque, expel Muslims from the mosque and impose control over the Islamic and Christian religious endowments in occupied Jerusalem;

4. To condemn the repeated attacks by Israeli officials and extremist settlers against the sanctity of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque with the support, protection and participation of the Israeli Government, and to stress that encroachment on the mosque is a red line, the crossing of which will undermine stability and international peace and security;

5. To denounce the Israeli plan known as Master Plan 2020, which seeks to designate Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel, change the names of the gates of al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic walls, place signs on them bearing names from the Torah, destroy buildings and Islamic antiquities in the area of Buraq Wall and excavate a network of tunnels below the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the Holy City;

6. To condemn Israel, the occupying Power, for its expropriation of the land of Jerusalemite civilians for the establishment of new settlements and expansion of existing settlements, including: the settlement project designated "E1", which involves the building thousands of settlement units inside and outside the walls of the Old City; the plan of the municipality of the occupying power to expropriate 602 dunams of land belonging to the town of Issawiya in East Jerusalem for the construction of public projects; and the construction of a light rail network;

7. To condemn the continued construction of the racist separation wall around Jerusalem to encircle the city; to call upon the international community and the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, to adopt the necessary measures to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to stop building the racist separation wall around the city of Jerusalem and to destroy what has been built of this wall in implementation of the Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on 9 July 2004 concerning the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 10/15 of 20 July 2004 (A/RES/ES-10/15);

8. To condemn the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the expropriation and destruction of homes in East Jerusalem to serve its settlement projects in the Holy City and the clearing of thousands of dunams for the construction of a ring of settlements designed to disrupt the geographical contiguity of Palestine and tighten Israel's control;

9. To condemn continued Israeli measures to enforce a racist law targeting the right of Palestinian Jerusalemites to reside in Jerusalem; condemn Israel's

withdrawal of Israeli identity cards from thousands of Jerusalemites who live inside and outside the suburbs of Jerusalem; and call upon all international institutions to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to discontinue its racist decisions and laws, which empty Jerusalem of its Palestinian inhabitants by imposing high taxes, destroying homes and refusing to grant construction permits;

10. To condemn arbitrary Israeli measures to close down national institutions operating in Jerusalem in order to end the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem; and call for the reopening of such institutions, especially Orient House and the Chamber of Commerce, to enable them to provide services to Jerusalem citizens and to protect the Palestinian presence in the Holy City; and to call upon States to refrain from participating in the Judaization of Jerusalem and to adopt measures in accordance with United Nations resolutions that define Jerusalem as an occupied city;

11. To welcome the significant agreement concluded between the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Majesty King Abdullah II, and the President of the State of Palestine, His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, on 31 March 2013 to use all means to protect and defend the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic holy places; to commend Jordan's role in caring for, protecting and maintaining the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem under the Hashemite Kingdom's historic guardianship, which the agreement reaffirms; to commend the efforts made by His Majesty to defend and protect the holy sites; and to once again reject all attempts by Israel, the occupying Power, to encroach upon that Hashemite guardianship;

12. To welcome the resolution adopted by the Executive Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 195th session, held in Paris on 28 October 2014, and at successive sessions, sponsored by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine with Arab and Islamic support, to follow up and monitor the encroachments by Israel, the occupying Power, on human, cultural and natural heritage sites, and the daily violations in East Jerusalem.; to emphasize that the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque constitutes the entire Noble Sanctuary and that the Mughrabi Gate is an integral part of the sanctuary; to underscore its vehement condemnation of the refusal by Israel, the occupying Power, to allow a technical mission from UNESCO to carry out its monitoring duty in the Old City of Jerusalem and within its walls; to call on the Executive Council of UNESCO to renew the mission's mandate and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with internationally recognized resolutions and UNESCO resolutions concerning the heritage and walls of Old Jerusalem, which was proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1981 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1982;

13. To condemn Israel, the occupying Power, for not permitting the UNESCO international experts mission to enter Jerusalem; and to call on the Group of Arab States at UNESCO, the Group of Arab States at the United Nations, the European Union, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to continue their opposition to the refusal by Israel, the occupying Power, to grant the expert mission access to occupied Jerusalem, which constitutes a violation of the obligations of Israel, the occupying Power, to UNESCO and the international community;

14. To condemn Israel's scheme to forcibly expel and deport Jerusalemites, especially political activists and legal entities defending their city;

15. To call on the relevant international organizations to oppose the plans of Israel, the occupying Power, to build a museum on land seized from the Ma'man Allah Cemetery, the oldest Islamic cemetery in occupied Jerusalem, where thousands of historical and religious figures are buried; to condemn the Israeli authorities' opening of a branch of a coffeehouse that serves alcohol and the organizing of an annual beer festival above the land of a historic Islamic cemetery on 26 and 27 August 2015, demonstrating blatant disregard for the sentiments of Muslims and the sanctity of the dead; and to call on UNESCO to halt this serious violation of a landmark of Islamic human heritage and to pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from its desecrating graves and exhuming remains;

16. To condemn Israel, the occupying Power, for resuming its enforcement in occupied Jerusalem of the so-called Absentee Property Law, which provides for the seizure of property belonging to Jerusalemites whose identification cards have been revoked; and to request the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to prepare a study on an appropriate mechanism for preventing Israel, the occupying Power, from disposing of the property of Jerusalemites;

17. To reject the repeated attempts of Israel, the occupying Power, to hold international conferences in the occupied city of Jerusalem; to call on international organizations to refuse invitations to or to participate in such conferences, in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions; to call on international organizations to commit to Jerusalem being the capital of the State of Palestine and an integral part of the territories of the State of Palestine occupied in 1967; and to request the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to communicate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding this matter;

18. To call on the Secretariat to follow up on the implementation of the decisions taken by the International Conference for the Defence of Jerusalem, which was held in Doha, Qatar, on 26 and 27 February 2012, in implementation of Baghdad summit resolution 551, paragraph 31 (23rd ordinary session);

19. To once again call on Arab capitals to twin with the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine; and to call on governmental and non-governmental educational, cultural, economic, social and health institutions to form partnerships with their counterparts in Jerusalem, in order to support occupied Jerusalem and the resilience of its population and institutions;

20. To commend the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to oppose Israeli measures in the Holy City, especially the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco and the head of the Al-Quds Committee, to defend of the Holy City and support the resilience of the Palestinian people; and to commend the efforts of the Bayt Mal al-Quds Agency, an affiliate of the Al-Quds Committee, to finance the restoration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque wall and various other projects, as well as the restoration of the historical mosques and buildings of the Holy City;

21. To call on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and international religious and cultural authorities to mobilize world public opinion to halt the destruction of Islamic and Christian holy places, protect those places and halt the hostile actions to which Christian and Muslim clergy in occupied Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian territories are subjected; to commend, in that connection, the

engagement of the Ministerial Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with several influential international capitals to explain the dangerous measures being taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in Jerusalem, its ongoing settlement policies and its attacks against the Palestinian people and their land and holy sites; to call on the international community to assume its responsibilities in relation to this issue; and to urge the Ministerial Contact Group to continue its efforts to protect the city of Jerusalem;

22. To welcome the visit of his Highness Sheikh Sabah Khalid al-Hamad al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, and the officials and leaders of fraternal Arab and Islamic countries to Palestine and its holy sites, particularly the city of Jerusalem, to bolster the resilience of its population; to commend the decision of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to open an representative office in Ramallah to underscore its full support for the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In that connection, the Council once again calls on all Muslims throughout the world to visit the Holy City and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and to break the blockade imposed on it, and to travel to it in order to protect it from the schemes of extremist Jewish gangs;

23. To form a legal advisory committee of the League of Arab States in order to advise on lawsuits before the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court regarding Israel's violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and its Judaization, seizure and confiscation of Arab property and the demolition of the homes of Jerusalemites in the occupied city of Jerusalem; and to submit practical proposals for following up on the matter, including by referring cases to the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court;

24. To emphasize that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and other international organizations must continue to comply with United Nations resolutions regarding Jerusalem and should maintain their headquarters, administration and main offices in occupied Jerusalem, instead of relocating outside Jerusalem;

25. To urge the Council of Arab Ministers of Information to promote programmes and projects in support of occupied Jerusalem; and to call on Arab media outlets to produce programmes on Jerusalem and its residents and to reveal the threat posed to the city by Judaization and the attempts to alter its historical character and demographic composition;

26. To emphasize the collective Arab and Islamic responsibility towards Jerusalem; to call on Arab and Islamic States and organizations, Arab funds and civil society organizations to finance and implement development projects in the areas of education, health, youth, social welfare, the economy and housing in Jerusalem; to call on them to act promptly and decisively to save the Holy City, protect its sacred sites, strengthen the resilience of its people and preserve its Arab character;

27. To welcome the support extended to the population of Jerusalem by fraternal and friendly countries, bolstering its resilience; to call on the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, civil society organizations, grass-roots organizations and Arab and Islamic institutions to help strengthen the resilience of the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, especially those threatened with seizure of

their land; to urge those entities to redouble their efforts to provide support to cover the basic needs of the Palestinian population of occupied Jerusalem;

28. To request the Council of Arab Ambassadors to step up its efforts to expose Israeli practices against the people and holy sites of Jerusalem, and to work within UNESCO and the United Nations to preserve the Arab character of Jerusalem;

29. To request the Group of Arab States in New York to continue pursuing its efforts with regional and political groups in the United Nations to reveal the threat that Israel's Judaization practices and measures pose to the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the grave repercussions of those practices and measures for international peace and security;

30. To call on those Arab States that have not fulfilled their commitments to provide additional support to the Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem Funds to do so, in accordance with the resolutions adopted at successive Arab summits;

31. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on the measures taken in that regard to the Council at its next session;

II. Settlement activity

32. To condemn strongly the various manifestations of Israel's colonialist, expansionist, illegal settlement policy in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem and its environs and the Jordan Valley; to affirm that the construction of illegitimate Israeli settlements and the racist separation wall on the territory of the State of Palestine occupied in 1967 is null and void, shall not constitute an admissible fait accompli, violates international law, United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute, demonstrates total disregard for the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 and aims to divide Palestinian land and undermine its geographical contiguity, thereby precluding the principle of the two-State solution; to stress that practical plans must be conceived to address that Israeli policy, as well as other unilateral Israeli actions that aim to create new facts on the ground;

33. To insist that the international community make efforts to halt Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and implement the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 465 (1980) and 497 (1981), which state that settlement activity is illegal and that existing settlements must be dismantled;

34. To commend the European Union's decisions and its position, which condemn settlement activity, consider settlements to be illegal and illegitimate entities, prohibit the financing of projects in Israeli settlements inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, require that products from the settlements be specially marked, and specify that any agreement signed between Israel, the occupying Power, and any European Union member State is not applicable inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

35. To continue to call on States, institutions, companies and individuals to halt all forms of cooperation with Israeli settlements established in the Occupied

Palestinian Territory, including by prohibiting the import of goods produced by such settlements and banning any direct or indirect investment in such settlements as a violation of international law. In that context, the Council welcomes all international positions boycotting institutions and companies that support Israeli settlement activity in the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, and it requests the forthcoming conference of focal points for the Regional Offices for the Boycott of Israel to find an effective mechanism to liaise with the international movement to boycott the Israeli occupation;

36. To condemn emphatically the crimes that Israeli settlers continue to commit, with the protection of the Israeli occupation army, against unarmed Palestinians and their property, farms, places of worship and cemeteries; to hold Israel, the occupying Power, fully responsible for those crimes and attacks; to call on the international community to oppose such racist crimes, which blatantly violate international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions and other treaties and covenants that safeguard the peace and security of peoples living under occupation; to enjoin them to include on the terrorism list the settler gangs and groups that perpetrate those crimes, such as the Price Tag Group, Hilltop Youth and other Jewish terrorist groups, and to impose financial sanctions and take legal measures against them;

37. To condemn the Israeli practice of using occupied Palestinian land to dispose of solid, hazardous and toxic waste from Israeli settlements, as such disposal has adverse health and environmental effects on residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and to call on the United Nations Environment Programme to investigate these violations and take action to avoid the adverse health and environmental effects thereof in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

38. To condemn all practices of the Israeli occupation and settlers aimed at gaining control of large parts of the city of Hebron and denying Palestinian residents access to the Sanctuary of Abraham and their homes, schools and places of work; and to call for the expansion of the mission of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron to include protection of the civilian population;

III. The racist separation wall

39. To condemn Israel, the occupying Power, for building the racist separation and annexation wall inside the territory of the State of Palestine occupied in 1967; to regard the wall as a form of racist separation; to call on States and international organizations and entities to take action on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 concerning the illegal and illegitimate nature of the racist separation wall; to refuse to acknowledge the situation arising from the construction of this wall; to refuse to provide assistance in building it; and to compel occupation forces to dismantle what has already been built of the wall and provide compensation for the resulting damages;

40. To call on States members to continue supporting the work of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, given the importance of the Register's continued documentation of the damage caused by the construction of the racist separation wall in the Palestinian territories; and to help meet the Register's $1.5 million funding shortfall, in order to allow it to continue its work until the end of 2016;

41. To affirm the importance of joint Arab and Islamic action at all levels to rally the necessary international support to implement the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice and the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the racist separation wall;

42. To call on the international community to assume its responsibility to oppose any new expulsions of Palestinians resulting from Israeli practices and to implement the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice concerning the construction of the racist separation wall; and to refer the issue of the wall to the International Criminal Court in preparation for its inclusion on the list of war crimes that violate international law;

IV. The Intifada

43. To support the collective uprising of the Palestinian people to confront the Israeli aggression against it, its land, holy sites and property, to which hundreds have fallen victim, having been killed, injured or taken prisoner;

44. To support the collective uprising of the Palestinian people to confront the Israeli aggression against it, its land, holy sites and property, to which hundreds have fallen victim, having been killed, injured or taken prisoner;

45. To stress the need to swiftly end the humanitarian and economic crisis being endured by the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the unjust blockade imposed by Israel, the occupying Power; to call on the international community and international organizations to press Israel to lift the blockade and open crossings immediately and permanently in order to enable the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to receive urgent humanitarian assistance, including food and medicine, rehabilitate schools and hospitals, and rebuild;

46. To call on the Secretariat to continue coordinating with the international community and with governmental and non-governmental organizations and councils to focus on addressing the living conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are deteriorating as a result of Israel's oppressive measures, closures, blockade and the negative effects thereof, particularly on health, education, childhood, relief and the economy in general;

47. To commend the State of Kuwait for hosting an international conference in October 2016 on the suffering endured by Palestinian children because of the continued violation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

V. Prisoners

48. To condemn strongly the Israeli occupation authorities' continued arrest and detention of thousands of Palestinians, including children, women, political leaders and deputies, the continued campaign of arbitrary arrests and the policy of administrative detention of Palestinian citizens, all of which violate international law; to also condemn the Israeli Knesset's enactment of a law on the forced feeding of prisoners and detainees on hunger strike; to continue to call on States and specialized international organizations act promptly to condemn and put an end to those arbitrary

practices and flagrant violations of the rights of Palestinian prisoners and to guarantee that the release of all prisoners and detainees will be part any political solution;

49. To call on international entities, institutions and bodies and relevant human rights organizations to assume their responsibility to intervene promptly and speedily to compel the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, to apply international humanitarian law on the treatment of prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War; to condemn the policy of administrative detention of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners; to hold the occupation authorities fully responsible for the lives of prisoners on hunger strike and of prisoners in general; to warn against the policy of individual and collective punishment, the dangerous situation inside occupation prisons and the repercussions of the occupation Government's enactment of a law on the force-feeding of prisoners on hunger strike; and to call on international organizations to take action to compel the Israeli occupying authorities to annul the law;

50. To call on the international community and international rights organizations to pressure the Israeli occupying authorities to release immediately all prisoners and detainees, particularly the fourth group of veteran prisoners, and the infirm, children, deputies and administrative detainees, and to compel Israel to abandon its policy of collective punishment, which violates the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

51. To call on the international community to dispatch a fact-finding commission to Israeli prisons to report on the violations endured by prisoners; to emphasize the need for the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions to compel Israel to apply the conventions inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons;

52. To support the Palestinian effort to have Israelis prosecuted and held accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against prisoners, in violation of international humanitarian law, United Nations resolutions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Geneva Conventions;

53. To call on the Arab and Islamic countries, institutions and individuals to support the Arab Fund for Palestinian prisoners, which is overseen by the League of Arab States and was established pursuant to resolution 574 (24th session) adopted on 26 March 2013 at the Doha Summit. The Government of the Republic of Iraq kindly donated $2 million to the Fund;

VI. Refugees

54. To emphasize the centrality of the Palestine refugee problem to the question of Palestine and to insist on the right of Palestine refugees to return; to reject resettlement attempts of any kind; to reject any actions by international actors aimed at nullifying the right of return; to call on the Secretariat and States members to continue and to intensify their efforts at the international level and in the United Nations to underscore this right, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and the Arab Peace Initiative; and to stress Israel's legal, political and moral responsibility for causing the Palestine refugee problem and for its continuation;

55. To demand that all parties to the conflict in Syria halt acts of aggression against the Palestine refugee camps and avoid involving them in battles, as these camps have remained neutral since the start of the conflict; to express the utmost concern at continued incidents inside the camps; to demand that weapons and persons bearing them be removed from the camps, that the blockade on the camps be lifted, that their inhabitants be allowed to return and that all necessary services be provided to Palestine refugees inside the camps;

56. To call for providing Palestine refugees with the necessities they need to bolster their resilience and lead a dignified existence in the refugee camps, and for ending the unjust suffering and discrimination they endure;

VII. UNRWA

57. To reaffirm the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as established by General Assembly resolution 302 (IV); to underscore the need to refrain from infringing on the Agency's mandate or responsibility or from modifying or transferring its responsibility to another entity; to ensure that UNRWA is not terminated and remains under the legal authority of the United Nations; to reaffirm the need for UNRWA to continue assuming its responsibility to provide services to refugees inside and outside the refugee camps in all its fields of operation until the question of the Palestine refugees is solved justly and comprehensively, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 and relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

58. To stress that the Agency's ordinary and emergency programmes and activities must continue to receive the necessary financial support; to call on the Secretariat, its missions abroad and the councils of Arab ambassadors to continue to use various channels of communication with all donor States to urge them to fulfil their financial obligations to UNRWA, in order to enable the Agency to perform its functions fully and avoid shifting to host States responsibilities that rest primarily with the Agency;

59. To call on UNRWA to expand the base of donor States, increase donor States' monetary commitments consistent with the Agency's needs, refrain from reducing any services provided by UNRWA, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) by which it was established, continue preparing its budgets in accordance with the priority needs of the refugees, coordinate with host Arab countries in the preparation and execution of UNRWA programmes in a manner that is consistent with those States' policies, and enlist the private sector in the donor States to contribute funding for additional programmes and projects in order to improve the situation of refugees, provided such funding is not given in lieu of the donor States' commitments to UNRWA;

60. To hold the Israeli occupying authorities responsible for the additional burden placed on UNRWA by the closure, blockade and the restrictions placed on the delivery of assistance to beneficiaries; and to demand that the occupying authorities provide compensation for those losses;

61. To call on UNRWA to continue fulfilling its responsibilities to Palestine refugees in Syria and those who were displaced from Syria by providing them with

the necessary support; and to appeal to the international community to support the Agency by providing the necessary funding;

62. To call on donors to respond to the appeal launched by UNRWA to raise $817 million to help Palestine refugees;

63. To welcome the increase by several Arab States of their contributions to the Agency's budget; to urge other Arab States to increase their contributions to the Agency's budget so that the contribution of Arab States amounts to 7.73 per cent of the UNRWA budget, in accordance with successive resolutions adopted by the Council of the League at the ministerial level since 1987; and to further urge that States should first pay their contributions to the Agency's budget before offering voluntary support for other projects;

VIII. Development

64. To condemn the policies and plans devised by Israel, the occupying Power, for the purpose of controlling the natural resources and wealth of the Palestinian people by undermining the Palestinian economy; and to call on the international community to enable the Palestinian people to control all of its resources and exercise its right to development;

65. To condemn the systematic measures imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to undermine the development of the Palestinian economy, deny the Palestinian people its inalienable right to development and to weaken the vitality and viability of the economy of the State of Palestine; to fully support United Nations General Assembly resolutions 60/20 and 70/12, particularly paragraph 9 of each resolution; to call upon States members to provide political and financial support to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and to emphasize the need to put in place mechanisms to provide resources for UNCTAD to carry out an annual, comprehensive, systematic and precise evaluation of the economic cost of the Israeli occupation to the State of Palestine;

66. To call on the international community to assume its responsibilities and to continue its commitment to provide assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority, without imposing political conditions on the Palestinians in exchange for assistance; and to further call on the international community to uphold its commitments to support the development plans and programmes of the State of Palestine;

67. To call on Arab States to continue to support the Palestinian economy and open their markets to the free flow of products of Palestinian origin by exempting such products from customs duties, in accordance with the relevant resolutions; and to call the competent agencies in the State of Palestine to provide the Secretariat of the League of Arab States with periodic reports on the difficulties impeding the flow of Palestinian goods and products to Arab States;

68. To strive to implement the resolutions adopted at previous Arab summits on ending the Israeli blockade and rebuilding the Gaza Strip, particularly the resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Kuwait, January 2009), the 22nd ordinary Arab summit (Sirte, March 2010), with reference to the outcomes of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy

for the Reconstruction of Gaza (March 2009); and to call on all Conference participants to convene another conference as soon as possible to implement their commitments as part of the Arab effort to ensure the successful conclusion of efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation as soon as possible;

69. To call on private corporations in Arab States to invest in the State of Palestine and to support the Palestinian private sector;

70. To thank Arab financial institutions and joint Arab action organizations for their efforts to support the Palestinian economy and develop its institutional structure; and to call on them to increase their efforts in a manner consistent with the priorities of Palestinian development plans.

(*Summit resolution 642 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)*

Item 5 — Support for the budget of the State of Palestine and the resilience of the Palestinian people (resolution 643)

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Stressing that member States are committed to paying their contributions in support the budget of the State of Palestine in accordance with resolutions adopted at the Arab summits in Beirut (2002), Sharm el-Sheikh (2003), Tunis (2004), Algiers (2005), Khartoum (2006), Riyadh (2007), Damascus (2008), Doha (2009), Sirte (2010), Baghdad (2012), Doha (2013), Kuwait (2014) and Sharm el-Sheikh (2015),

Recalling the resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level and at level of permanent delegates, including resolution 7224 (134th ordinary session, 16 September 2010), resolution 7301 (135th ordinary session, 2 March 2011), resolution 7366 (emergency meeting of the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the level of permanent delegates, 31 May 2011), resolution 7368 (extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the level of permanent delegates, 26 July 2011), resolution 7376 (136th ordinary session, 13 September 2011), resolution 7453 (137th ordinary session, 10 March 2012), resolution 7516 (138th ordinary session, 5 September 2012), the declaration adopted by the meeting of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee held in Doha on 9 December 2012, resolution 7579 (extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, 13 in January 2013), resolution 7588 (139th ordinary session, 6 March 2013), resolution 7660 (140th ordinary session, 1 September 2013), resolution 7730 (141st ordinary session, 9 September 2014), resolution 7797 (142nd

* The Republic of the Sudan enters a reservation to any mention of the International Criminal Court in the present resolution. It has submitted an explanatory note in that regard to the Secretariat. The note was circulated to the permanent delegations as note 3999/5 of the Secretariat (Secretariat of the Council of the League), dated 27 July 2016.

ordinary session, 7 September 2014), resolution 7857 (143rd ordinary session, 9 March 2015), resolution 7924 (144th ordinary session, 13 September 2015) and resolution 7995 (145th ordinary session, 11 March 2016),

Decides

1. To appeal to the Arab States to promptly provide a financial safety net in the amount of $100 million per month to the State of Palestine in order to support the Palestinian leadership in the light of the financial pressures to which it is subject and the continued refusal of Israel, the occupying Power, to transfer funds owed to the State of Palestine, including the freezing or blocking of large sums of Palestinian tax revenues in violation of all international laws and conventions and bilateral agreements;

2. To thank those Arab States that have fulfilled their commitments to support the budget of the State of Palestine, to call upon the other Arab States to pay the arrears which they owe as promptly as possible and to stress the importance of continuing to support the budget of the State of Palestine;

3. To call upon the Arab States to transfer the funds which they pledged at the Cairo conference on rebuilding the sites destroyed by occupation forces in the course of their war on the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2014; and to call again for Arab States to fulfil the commitments made at Arab summits;

4. To thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and those States members that have fully or partially paid their commitments and contributions to support the resources of the al-Aqsa Fund and Jerusalem Intifada Fund pursuant to the resolutions of the extraordinary Cairo Summit of 2000, to provide additional support to the two funds according to the resolutions of the Beirut Summit (14th ordinary session) in 2002 and to implement the resolution of the Sirte Summit at its 22nd ordinary session in 2010 to support Jerusalem; and to call upon the Arab States that have not fulfilled their commitments to promptly provide additional support for that purpose;

5. To call upon the Arab States to support the budget of the State of Palestine for the year starting on 1 April 2016 in accordance with the mechanisms established at the Beirut Summit (2002).

(*Summit resolution 643 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 6 — Occupied Syrian Arab Golan (resolution 644)

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

· Having considered:

• The note of the Secretariat,

• The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

• The resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level, including resolution 7161 (133rd ordinary session, 3 March 2010), 7230 (134th ordinary session, 16 September 2010), 7306 (135th ordinary session, 2 March 2011), 7381 (136th ordinary session, 13 September 2011), 7457 (137th ordinary session, 10 March

2012), 7521 (138th ordinary session, 5 September 2012), 7593 (139th ordinary session, 6 March 2013), 7665 (140th session, 1 September 2013), 7735 (141st session, 9 March 2014), 7802 (141st ordinary session, 9 March 2014), 7802 (142nd ordinary session, 7 September 2014), 7862 (143rd ordinary session, 9 March 2015), 7928 (144th session, 13 September 2015), 7999 (145th ordinary session, 11 March 2016) and 8041 (extraordinary session of 21 April 2016),

Recalling the previous resolutions of the Council on the topic, the most recent of which is resolution 619 of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit (26th ordinary session, 29 March 2015),

Decides

1. To express the Arab States' firm support for the legitimate right of Syria to demand the return of the entire occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the 4 June 1967 border line, in accordance with the principles of the peace process, internationally recognized resolutions and the outcomes of the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference;

2. To reaffirm resolution 4126 of 13 February 1982 and subsequent resolutions at the ministerial level, the most recent of which is resolution 7999 (145th ordinary session, 11 March 2016); to reaffirm the resolutions of the Arab summits, particularly resolution 619 (26th ordinary session, Sharm el-Sheikh, 29 March 2015), which reject all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to alter the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan; to regard Israeli measures to entrench Israeli control as illegal, null and void and a violation of international conventions, the Charter of the United Nations and internationally recognized resolutions, in particular, Security Council resolution 497 (1981); and to endorse the following documents: General Assembly resolution 63/99, which emphasizes that Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is illegal, null and void, has no legal effect and constitutes a serious violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981); General Assembly resolutions 64/21, 65/18, 65/106 and 66/19 and successive General Assembly resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 70/17; Human Rights Council resolution 31/25; the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly on the situation in the Middle East (A/66/371), dated 9 September 2013, which contains a section on the occupied Syrian Golan; the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Human Rights Council concerning human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/25/37), dated 13 January 2014; and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Security Council concerning the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2016/520), dated 8 June 2016;

3. To reaffirm that the continued occupation of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan since 1967 poses a constant threat to regional stability and international peace and security;

4. To condemn Israel for its seizure of land and natural resources in the Syrian Arab Golan, including the theft of water resources, the construction of dams and the diversion of water from Lake Mas'dah, the Sea of Galilee and Hula Lake to settlers' farms, and denying Syrian farmers access to key water sources to irrigate their farms and water their livestock, as well as the frenzied quest to plunder the wealth of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan through intensive drilling and extraction of oil; to emphasize that such resources are the exclusive property of the inhabitants of

the occupied Arab Syrian Golan as established in United Nations instruments, conventions and resolutions;

5. To reaffirm the Arab position of full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon, to stand with them in confronting ongoing Israeli attacks and threats against them and to consider any attack against them an attack against the Arab nation;

6. To support the resilience of Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and to stand beside them in their opposition to the Israeli occupation and its oppressive practices; to support their determination to cling to their land and Syrian Arab identity; to stress that the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 applies to citizens of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan; to condemn the Israeli occupation authorities' flagrant violation of all rights of Syrian citizens, young and old, under occupation in the Golan, rights that are guaranteed by virtue of the principles of international law and internationally authoritative norms; to condemn the occupation's displacement of thousands of residents, theft of their land, breakup of families and the impact of that situation on the lives and upbringing of children, in addition to other numerous violations of children's rights, which are inconsistent with international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

7. To call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to stop imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identification cards on Syrian citizens in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and to immediately halt its oppressive measures against them and all other practices that impede their enjoyment of their basic rights and their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

8. To call on the United Nations, Security Council and Human Rights Council to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, honours the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and facilitates visits by residents of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to their families and relatives in the mother country Syria through the Qunaytirah crossing under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

9. To condemn the Israeli occupation forces' practices and provocations in the Syrian Arab Golan, including the hostile, escalatory and irresponsible statements made recently by the Israeli prime minister concerning the occupied Syrian Arab Golan; to condemn the Israeli occupation Government's holding of meetings in the Golan Heights; to emphasize that such meetings are an escalation that violates the rules of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as a blatant challenge to the will of the international community and Security Council resolution 497 (1981), which most clearly regards the imposition by Israel of its laws, authorities and will in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights as null and void and having no legal effect. In addition, these measures are a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the recent relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice in 2004 in this regard. Moreover, they directly threaten international peace and security and thwart all international plans and efforts aimed at achieving a permanent, just, comprehensive peace in the region;

10. To call on Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately release from Israeli prisons and detention centres, all Syrian prisoners, some of whom have been detained for more than 29 years, and to treat them in a manner consistent with international

humanitarian law; to call on the international community and human rights organizations and agencies to expose Israeli violations of the rights of imprisoned residents of the Golan, condemn Israeli practices, pressure Israel, the occupying Power, to permit the representatives of the international Committee of the Red Cross to visit the Arab Syrian prisoners in Israeli detention centres accompanied by physicians to ascertain the prisoners' physical and mental health and protect their lives, and to regard the continued detention of these prisoners as a blatant violation of United Nations resolutions, international humanitarian law and the most basic human rights principles;

11. To endorse successive United Nations resolutions, the most recent of which is General Assembly resolution 70/17, adopted on 25 November 2016, which stresses the illegality of Israeli settlement activity and other Israeli activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967;

12. To demand that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, which reaffirms the Assembly's determination that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention (IV) of 1907 and the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls on to the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments, in all circumstances;

13. To urge the international community to remain committed to United Nations resolutions that reject Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan by condemning the practices of the Israeli Government, which seeks to attract thousands of Israeli families to settle on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, most recently through a settlement campaign mounted by the so-called Golan Regional Council under the slogan, "Come to the Golan", which is currently referred to as the "farms project"; call upon Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan; and stress the need to allow the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan to return to their homes and to recover their property;

14. To condemn the Israeli Government's policy, which has destroyed the peace process and led to steadily escalating tension in the region; to call on the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to apply United Nations resolutions concerning Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and all occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 borders.

(Summit resolution 644 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 7 — Solidarity with and support for Lebanon (resolution 645)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- Resolution 7738 (141st ordinary session) dated 9 March 2014 on the negative and dangerous repercussions of the Syrian displaced person crisis for Lebanon,

- The resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8000, adopted at the 145th ordinary session on 11 March 2016,

- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting, held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, the most recent of which was the Sharm el-Sheikh summit (2015), particularly resolution 599 (25th ordinary session) dated 26 March 2014, concerning support for the Lebanese Army,

Noting the latest domestic, regional and international developments concerning Lebanon,

Recalling the relevant international resolutions, to which the Lebanese Government remains committed, particularly the entirety of resolution 1701 (2006), which is based on Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978),

Decides

1. To reaffirm full solidarity with Lebanon; to provide political and economic support to Lebanon and its constitutional institutions, in order to safeguard Lebanese national unity and Lebanon's security, stability and sovereignty over its entire territory; to emphasize the right of the Lebanese people to liberate or recover the Lebanese Shab'a Farms, the hills of Kafr Shuba and the Lebanese portion of the town of Ghajar; to uphold their right to use legitimate means to resist any aggression; and to emphasize the need to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation, the latter being a right enshrined in international instruments and the principles of international law, and therefore cannot be considered an act of terrorism;

2. To support Lebanon's call on the international community to implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), which is based on resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), by putting a definitive end to Israel's violations and constant threats against Lebanon and its civilian facilities and infrastructure;

3. To welcome and endorse the conclusions adopted by the successive meetings of the International Support Group for Lebanon, the most recent of which was held on the margins of the seventieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 September 2015;

4. To commend the national role of the Lebanese Army and security forces in maintaining domestic stability and peace and supporting efforts to extend the sovereignty of the Lebanese State as far as its internationally recognized borders; to commend the sacrifices made by the Lebanese Army in its fight against terrorism and terrorist and *takfirist* organizations, particularly those mentioned in Security Council resolution 2170 (2014); to condemn the reprehensible attacks against several areas of Lebanon; to welcome the assistance provided to Lebanon by friendly countries, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; to urge all States to strengthen the capacity of the Lebanese Army to fulfil its responsibilities, as it is the cornerstone of security, stability and civil peace in Lebanon; and to condemn the abduction of Lebanese

soldiers by terrorist organizations in August 2014 and demand their release in order to thwart the schemes of those wishing to ignite domestic and regional strife;

5. To condemn all of the terrorist acts, armed deployments and terrorist bombings that have targeted several areas of Lebanon, killing many innocent civilians; to reject all futile attempts to sow discord, undermine the foundations of coexistence, civil peace and national unity and disrupt security and stability; to emphasize the need to combat extremism, fanaticism, *takfirism*, sectarianism and interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; to cooperate and coordinate fully in order to counter and eradicate terrorism, and eliminate its sources of funding; to cooperate in sharing information and expertise, and building capacity; and holding accountable the perpetrators of terrorist acts and crimes against humanity and those who incite violent and destructive acts and sectarianism, which endanger peace and security, and to tighten sanctions against them and take preventive measures in that regard;

6. To support the steadfast resistance of Lebanon to the ongoing Israeli aggression, including, in particular, the July 2006 aggression; to pray for God's mercy on the souls of the Lebanese victims; to stress that the Lebanese people's cohesion and unity in confronting and resisting the Israeli aggression are a guarantee of the country's future, security and stability; to characterize Israeli crimes as war crimes whose perpetrators must be prosecuted; to hold Israel fully responsible for its attacks and to compel it to compensate the Lebanese Republic and its citizens; to welcome United Nations General Assembly resolutions concerning the oil slick on Lebanese shores, the most recent of which is resolution 70/194 of December 2015, which requires Israel to provide financial compensation for the damage caused to Lebanon when Israel bombed the Jiyeh electric power plant during the July 2006 war;

7. To condemn Israeli land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty, including:

- The Israeli penetration of Lebanese society through the planting of agents and propagation of espionage networks;
- Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereign and economic rights in its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone and its oil and gas resources located in its maritime areas;
- The all-out electronic warfare that Israel is waging against the Lebanese Republic, as evidenced by the noticeable increase in the number of towers, antennas and devices for observation, spying and surveillance, all of which are intended for piracy and espionage against all Lebanese communication and data networks;
- Israel's refusal to hand over complete, accurate information and maps pertaining to the locations of all unexploded ordnance, including the quantity and the types of cluster bombs that it dropped indiscriminately on populated civilian areas during its attack on Lebanon in the summer of 2006;

8. To underscore the following points:

- There is a need to safeguard Lebanon's unique pluralistic formula, which is based on equality between Muslims and Christians, religious coexistence,

dialogue, tolerance and mutual acceptance; to condemn its diametric antithesis, namely, such nihilist terrorist organizations as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Nusrah Front, whose crimes against humanity mimic Israel's exclusionary policies based on the Jewish character of the State and its hostile actions against Arab Muslims and Christians;

- The Lebanese Government must be supported in its policy of promoting Lebanon's Arab and international presence and spreading its message of cultural diversity, particularly in confronting Israel; minorities must remain indigenous and fundamental components of the social fabric of the States in the region; minority rights must be safeguarded and attacks against minorities prevented; and crimes committed against minorities must be characterized as crimes against humanity;

- The Lebanese Government must be supported in complying with its constitutional obligation to reject resettlement and uphold the right of Palestine refugees to return to their homes; and the Palestinian people and leadership deserve credit for their unequivocal and consistent rejection of the resettlement of Palestine refugees in host countries, particularly in Lebanon;

- The Lebanese Government complies with the authoritative international resolutions and is striving to uncover the truth regarding the assassination of the late Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and members of his entourage, and it is doing so without politicization or reprisal and in a manner that would not adversely affect the stability, unity and civil peace of Lebanon;

- The Lebanese Government must be supported in its efforts to follow up on the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two associates, Sheikh Muhammad Ya'qub and the journalist Abbas Badruldin, in order to free them, to hold accountable officials of the former Libyan regime, and to close the case;

9. To welcome the following:

- The efforts of the Lebanese Government and people, despite the country's limited resources, to host displaced Syrians; to emphasize the need to assist Lebanon in that regard, to share the burden, including the numbers of refugees involved, and to stem the growth of the problem; to emphasize that the presence of those displaced persons in Lebanon is temporary, in the light of the existential threat that it poses to the country; to make every effort to ensure that they return to their homes as soon as possible; to commend the Lebanese Government's intensive efforts to reduce the number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon and to guarantee the security of both Lebanese and Syrians; and to reduce the burden borne by the Lebanese people and its economy, as Lebanon finds itself on the brink of a social, economic and security cataclysm that endangers its very existence;

- The initiative taken by Lebanon to appeal to the International Criminal Court prosecutor to bring charges in respect of Israel's war crimes in Gaza and the ongoing crimes against humanity committed by terrorists in Iraq;

- The Lebanese Government's efforts to develop and implement its economic reform policy and foster sustainable economic growth, in order to modernize the

national economic structure, preserve its stability and enhance opportunities for growth;

- The ongoing dialogue among Lebanese political stakeholders aimed at resolving their differences, easing political tension, promoting national reconciliation and coexistence, advancing the work of Government and constitutional institutions, and creating the necessary environment to hold presidential elections, in accordance with the Constitution and in compliance with the principle of the alternation of power, which is necessary owing to the nature of Lebanon's democratic system;

10. To commend the tireless and ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in support of the Lebanese Republic, in consultation with the Arab States, Lebanese constitutional institutions and various political forces, with a view to enhancing stability and promoting sustainable economic growth in Lebanon, which will safeguard the unity, security and stability of country, allow it to confront threats and enable it to follow up and implement the decisions taken by the national dialogue within Parliament and by the national dialogue entity at the Presidential Palace in Ba'abda.

*(Summit resolution 648 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)**

Item 8 — Developments in the Syrian crisis (resolution 646)

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation issued by the second session of the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level held on 23 July 2016 in Nouakchott,

Recalling previous resolutions of the League of Arab States at the summit level, including resolution 554 of the Baghdad summit (23rd ordinary session) dated 29 March 2012, resolution 580 of the Doha summit (24th ordinary session) dated 26 March 2013, resolution 600 of the Kuwait summit (25th ordinary session) dated 26 March 2014, resolution 623 of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit (26th ordinary session) dated 29 March 2015; the resolutions of the Council at the ministerial level in that regard, of which the most recent was resolution 8006 (145th ordinary session) dated

* The Kingdom of Bahrain enters a reservation to present the resolution because the so-called Lebanese Hizbullah, which is a member of the Lebanese Government, bears full responsibility for the efforts to undermine civil peace and stability by fomenting sectarian strife, supporting terrorism and blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of several Arab States. Bahrain reaffirms that it stands with and supports the kindred Lebanese people and its right to live in a stable, sovereign State, free from external interference.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia distances itself from the present resolution and supports the reservation entered by the Kingdom of Bahrain
- The United Arab Emirates distances itself from the present resolution and supports the reservation entered by the Kingdom of Bahrain
- The State of Qatar distances itself from the present resolution and supports the reservation entered by the Kingdom of Bahrain

11 March 2016; resolution 8042 of the Council at the permanent representative level (extraordinary session) dated 4 May 2016; and the statements of the ministerial committee on the Syrian situation,

Reiterating its unchanging position on preserving the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Syria, based on the Charter of the League of Arab States and its principles,

Reiterating its total solidarity with the Syrian people in the face of the serious violations perpetrated against them, threatening their existence and the lives of innocent civilians,

Reaffirming its full commitment to supporting the aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, justice and equality, and their inalienable right to choose a system of governance that will enable them to realize their hopes and aspirations to establish peace and security throughout Syria,

Welcoming again the efforts of the International Syria Support Group to create conditions conducive to the resumption of negotiations between the opposition and the Syrian Government towards the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive authority, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012; the two statements issued by the Support Group at Vienna on 30 October 2015 and 14 November 2015, both of which were endorsed by Security Council resolution 2254 (2015); the Group's Munich statement of 11 February 2016, which was welcomed by Security Council resolution 2268 (2016); and the Vienna statement of 17 May 2016, thereby fulfilling the aspirations of all Syrian groups and factions,

Reiterating its firm position that the only possible solution to the Syrian crisis is a political solution achieved through an inclusive political process that meets the aspirations of the Syrian people, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012,

Having heard the statements of the leaders, heads of delegation and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To express its profound concern at the consequences of the escalation of military action in all parts of Syria, which could lead to the collapse of the arrangements for the cessation of hostilities agreed to at the meetings of the International Syria Support Group; and to call on the Security Council to assume its full responsibility for maintaining international peace and security and take appropriate measures to implement Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015) and 2268 (2016) calling for a cessation of hostilities and a ceasefire in all parts of Syria;

2. To urge the International Syria Support Group to redouble its efforts and continue striving to implement the communiqué of the Geneva Communiqué, the two statements issued by the Support Group at Vienna on 30 October 2015, 14 November 2015 and 17 May 2016, and the Munich statement of 11 February 2016, and to work for compliance with the principles and mechanisms agreed to and set forth in those statements, in particular those that pertain to reinforcing the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, providing humanitarian assistance and creating an atmosphere conducive

to the resumption of negotiations in Geneva under the aegis of the United Nations towards the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive authorities;

3. To condemn and reject the Syrian regime's atrocities against the defenceless civilian population in Aleppo and its countryside, and against Syrian citizens in all parts of Syria; and to regard the ongoing aerial bombardments, massacres and crimes committed by the regime in Aleppo and other Syrian cities as a blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law;

4. To condemn terrorist operations and crimes committed against civilians in various parts of Syria by such terrorist organizations and groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, which is affiliated with Al-Qaida, and other terrorist organizations;

5. To work to bring to international justice all those who have committed or participated in massacres and atrocities against innocent civilians in Aleppo and other areas of Syria;

6. To request the Group of Arab States in Geneva to coordinate closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take all necessary measures to halt the ongoing human rights violations being perpetrated by the Syrian regime, including by providing the necessary protection to children and women, and preventing hospitals and civilian institutions from being targeted, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

7. To express full support for the measures taken by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to protect its national security and the security of its citizens in the wake of the terrorist attack on the border point in the Rakban area at the Jordanian-Syrian border; to call on the international community to assume its responsibilities with respect to the Syrian refugees; and to thank the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its efforts in that regard;

8. To welcome the positive outcomes of the expanded meeting of the Syrian opposition held under the aegis of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 8 and 9 December 2015, and previous meetings of the Syrian opposition parties in Cairo and Moscow aimed at consolidating the Syrian opposition's vision of steps needed for a political solution to the Syrian crisis through a Syrian-led political process on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué, the statements of the International Syria Support Group and the relevant Security Council resolutions;

9. To commend His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and the State of Kuwait, for hosting the first, second and third donor conferences in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria held in Kuwait in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and co-hosting the fourth conference held under the aegis of the United Nations in London on 4 February 2016, in the course of which it has contributed a total of $1.6 billion; and to call on donor States to fulfil promptly the pledges made at the London conference in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria, in particular those related to providing the necessary support to Syria's neighbouring Arab States and other Arab States that are hosting Syria refugees and displaced persons, in order to help them bear the burdens of providing relief and urgent humanitarian aid;

10. To request the Secretary-General of the League to continue consultations and contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, and with the relevant stakeholders, to intensify efforts to create a climate conducive to the resumption of the Geneva rounds of negotiations aimed at determining the steps needed for a transitional political solution to the Syrian crisis, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué, the statements of the International Syria Support Group, and the relevant Security Council resolutions;

11. To request the ministerial committee on Syria and the Secretary-General to continue efforts and consultations on the situation in Syria with the relevant regional and international parties, and to report on the outcomes of those efforts at the next session of the Council of the League at the ministerial level.

*(Summit resolution 646 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)**

Item 9 — Developments in the situation in the State of Libya (resolution 647)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The resolution adopted at the 26th ordinary Arab summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 29 March 2016,
- The Council's resolutions, of which the most recent was resolution 8045 adopted at its extraordinary session at the ministerial level held on 28 May 2016,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting on 23 July 2016 in Nouakchott,

Reaffirming the need to honour the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya; protect its citizens; preserve its political independence; and reject foreign and military intervention in Libyan affairs,

Decides

1. To reiterate that it welcomes the assumption by the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of its duties in the capital Tripoli, and that it regards Presidency Council Decision No. 4 of 2016 forming the Government of National Accord as an important step towards implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in the city of Skhirat in the Kingdom of Morocco;

2. To renew its call on States members to provide political, moral and material support to the Libyan Government of National Accord, which is the sole legitimate Government of Libya, and refrain from contact with other competing executive bodies; to welcome Presidency Council Decision No. 12 of 2016 authorizing its appointees to serve as ministers in the Government of National Accord until the Government is endorsed and duly sworn in by the House of Representatives;

* Lebanon reaffirms its position of refraining from involvement in the Syrian crisis, in the hope that a Syrian-Syrian agreement can be reached and in order to promote a political solution in Syria.

and to call for urgent assistance to help the Government of National Accord revitalize and rehabilitate security, military and civilian institutions by providing the expertise and equipment identified by the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord as essential to carrying out its national responsibilities and complying with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, of which the most recent are resolutions 2259 (2015) and 2278 (2016);

3. To commend the significant progress made by the forces of the Libyan Government of National Accord in liberating the city of Sirte from the control of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL); and to reaffirm the need to resolutely confront terrorism, and to provide the Libyan Army with support for fighting such terrorist organizations as ISIL, Al-Qaida, Ansar al-Sharia and other organizations classified as terrorist organizations by the United Nations;

4. To welcome the communiqué of the international ministerial meeting for Libya held in Vienna on 16 May 2016 and the outcomes of the eighth ministerial meeting of Libya's neighbouring States held in Tunis on 22 March 2016; and to reiterate the importance of the mechanism established by the neighbouring States in promoting a political settlement in Libya;

5. To call on all States to refrain from interfering in Libya's internal affairs, in particular by supplying weapons to armed groups, and from using the media to incite violence and undermine the political process;

6. To stress that it rejects any military intervention in Libya, which would have severe consequences for the country and for the region as a whole, and that any military action aimed at fighting terrorism must be pursuant to a request from the Government of National Accord and in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

7. To commend the role being played by the neighbouring countries and to call on them to continue to provide assistance for preventing weapons from reaching terrorist organizations by controlling their land borders with Libya in coordination with the Libyan Government;

8. To call on States members to actively contribute to improving the deteriorating humanitarian situation by providing assistance to the Libyan people and supporting the emergency humanitarian response plan for Libya created by the United Nations in coordination with the Government of National Accord;

9. To request the Secretary-General to continue contacts and consultations with the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Libya, all the Libyan parties, and Libya's neighbouring States in order to overcome remaining impediments to the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement signed in the city of Skhirat in the Kingdom of Morocco under the aegis of the United Nations.

(Resolution 647 – 27th ordinary session – 25 July 2016)

Item 10 — Developments in the situation in the Republic of Yemen (resolution 648)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

• The note of the Secretariat,

• The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

• Its previous resolutions on this matter,

Decides

1. To reaffirm that it continues to support the constitutional legitimacy of the leadership of His Excellency President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour of the Republic of Yemen, and that any consultations or negotiations to help Yemen emerge from the crisis must be based on the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementing mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2216 (2015);

2. To reiterate that the foundation for resolving the Yemeni issue lie in preserving Yemen's unity, independence and territorial integrity, and rejecting any interference in its domestic affairs or the imposition of facts on the ground by force of arms, in accordance with previous Arab summit resolutions and the relevant international terms of reference;

3. To affirm the internationally agreed terms of reference; the commitments made in Switzerland under the Biel agenda; the five points and overall framework set forth by the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed; and the overriding priority of withdrawal from all areas and cities, the surrender of weapons and the handover of State institutions;

4. To emphasize that detainees, prisoners, abductees, political prisoners and those imprisoned for expressing their opinions, especially journalists and activists, must be released as soon as possible without conditions;

5. To stress that the political process must be resumed from the point at which it was suspended prior to the coup, namely, discussion of a draft constitution that shall be put to a referendum and the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections;

6. To stress that the pro-coup militias must comply with the assurances set forth by the United Nations envoy pursuant to the meeting in Doha between His Excellency President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, and Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

7. To highly commend the responsible national positions taken at the ongoing consultations in Kuwait by the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Yemen, which has displayed good faith, sincerity and a genuine desire to put an end rapidly to the ongoing war, which has brought extreme hardship, destruction and human suffering;

8. To condemn the efforts by the delegation of the pro-coup militias in Kuwait to circumvent what has already been agreed on, as well as that delegation's deliberate procrastination, manipulation and intransigence, which only prove that the militias did not enter the negotiations in good faith and are merely trying to legitimize the coup, buy time, and prolong the crisis while they deploy in the field, especially in

the light of their numerous daily violations of the ceasefire agreement, the grievous damage they are doing to the Yemeni social fabric, their continued bombing and siege of civilians, and their obstruction of humanitarian supplies and assistance, particularly in the city of Ta'izz;

9. To fully welcome and support the military measures to defend legitimacy in Yemen that have been taken by the Arab coalition led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of His Excellency President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour of the Republic of Yemen and on the basis of the joint Arab defence treaty, the Charter of the League of Arab States, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and the League's responsibility to preserve the integrity, sovereignty and independence of the Arab countries.

10. To thank the relief centre established by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia for the substantial and generous humanitarian assistance it has provided to civilians affected by the current crisis; to express gratitude to the State of Qatar for organizing and hosting a conference for humanitarian relief for Yemen and to the United Arab Emirates for its ongoing support for Yemen; and also to thank the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman and other kindred Arab States;

11. To call on States members and the international community to provide the political, security, economic and financial support needed to enable the Republic of Yemen to confront challenges and respond urgently to its development needs, in order to address difficult economic and humanitarian conditions that have become unbearable and cannot be ignored, and to complete arrangements for the transitional phase;

12. To call for full support for the Government of Yemen in the ongoing war it is waging against terrorism and piracy;

13. To express the deepest thanks to the Amir, Government and people of Kuwait for the positive atmosphere they have created and their efforts to ensure the success of the consultations; and to express gratitude to the League of Arab States and its Secretary-General, and to the United Nations, its Secretary-General and his Special Envoy Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, for their efforts to help Yemen emerge from its current crisis.

(*Summit resolution 648 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 11 — Support for the Federal Republic of Somalia (resolution 649)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the topic,

Decides

1. To welcome the success achieved in the Somali national reconciliation process, the rebuilding of State institutions and the fulfilment of the responsibilities and duties related to the Government's nationally approved and internationally endorsed action plan, which is known as Vision 2016;

2. To express appreciation for the important role of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in support of the Somali National Army's efforts to maintain security and stability in the country, particularly the pivotal and much-appreciated role of the Djiboutian contingent of AMISOM; and to condemn all criminal and terrorist acts against the Somali people and Government, AMISOM and the country's civil and service institutions; and to welcome the decision of the Government of Djibouti to appoint a commander of AMISOM, who we trust will be dispatched promptly to assume his functions;

3. To call on States members to provide without delay support to the Somali Government, in order to rebuild and rehabilitate the security and military institutions; and to call on the Security Council to lift the arms embargo imposed on the Somali Government, so that the national army can fully perform its duties;

4. To call on States members and the Secretariat to provide political, technical and material support to the Federal Government of Somalia and to assist it in the ongoing process of building State institutions, including completing the review of the Provisional Constitution, consolidating the federal system, forming regional administrations, establishing political parties, launching the political process and holding legislative and presidential elections in the current year; to condemn any attempt to hinder that process; and to request the Secretariat to support the ongoing political consultations between the Somali Government and the various regions of Somalia, with a view to strengthening national unity;

5. To reaffirm the need to implement resolution 626 of the League of Arab States (26th ordinary session, Sharm el-Sheikh, 29 March 2015) concerning the provision of urgent financial support in the amount of $10 million a month for a period of one year through the Somalia support account operated by the Secretariat, in order to support the budget of the Somali Government and thereby enable it to establish and operate effective institutions, implement its security and stability programmes, combat corruption and violence, and provide essential services;

6. To thank those States that have paid their contribution to the Secretariat's Somalia support account, which provides direct material, technical and humanitarian support to the Federal Republic of Somalia; and to urge the States members that have not yet paid their contributions to that account to do so, in implementation of the relevant resolutions adopted by the Council of the League at the summit level;

7. To request the Secretariat to make the necessary preparations, in cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia, to hold a conference in 2017 on development in Somalia, at which the Somali Government and the relevant Arab and international institutions will present the necessary development projects needed, for review and support; to welcome the trip that a Secretariat delegation made in the second week of February 2016 to all parts of Somalia; to request the Secretariat to continue its visits to the various regions of Somalia, in order to conduct additional

political consultations and strengthen cooperation with the Somali Government, with a view to determining which of the country's development needs will be presented at the conference; and to build on the positive outcomes of the meetings of the High-level Partnership Forum on Somalia;

8. To welcome enthusiastically the decision by the State of Kuwait to host a conference this year to support education in Somalia; to request Arab States members to participate effectively at that conference, particularly through their ministries of education, in order to help the Somali Government strengthen education and promote the spread of the Arabic language in Somali schools and educational curricula; and to request that the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization coordinate Arab efforts in that regard;

9. To express appreciation for ongoing bilateral Arab efforts and assistance in the areas of security, development, humanitarian support and reconstruction and rehabilitation of Somali State institutions, including the Somali national forces;

10. To welcome the decision of the relevant authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt to adopt measures to lift the embargo on the import of Somali livestock, the trade in which is the mainstay of the Somali economy; to call on Arab States to open their markets to Somali products, in order to revitalize the Somali economy; and to support the efforts of the Somali Government and the relevant ministries to vaccinate Somali livestock annually and provide other veterinary services;

11. To call on the competent Arab organizations, Arab funds and ministerial councils to provide various forms of support to the Somali Government, in order to help alleviate the suffering of the Somali people; to commend the efforts of the Office of the League of Arab States in Mogadishu to oversee the establishment of five schools and a clinic in the Somali capital, a project made possible by greatly appreciated funding provided by the ministerial councils responsible for health and social affairs; to request the Secretariat to coordinate with Somali officials, the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs with a view to conducting field visits in Somalia in support of Arab development efforts in the areas of health and social affairs; and to highlight Arab support for the Government and people of Somalia;

12. To request the League of Arab States to intensify consultations and enhance coordination with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the relevant United Nations agencies in respect of humanitarian relief and distribution of relief assistance in Somalia; and to request Arab States and the Secretariat to provide the necessary material and technical support to help the Somali Government meet the growing humanitarian needs of Yemeni refugees arriving in Somalia and of Somalis returning home from Kenya and Yemen;

13. To support the Somali Government's efforts to combat illegal fishing in Somali waters and the dumping of toxic waste on Somali coasts, both of which are crimes that endanger the health of Somali citizens, hinder the Somali people's access to their natural resources and affect the safety of the coastlines of several Arab States that border the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea;

14. To condemn the piracy off the coast of Somalia and in Gulf of Aden; to strengthen Arab cooperation to combat piracy; to work with ongoing international efforts to combat piracy and bring to trial its perpetrators; to reject any attempts to internationalize the Red Sea region; and to strengthen Arab cooperation to achieve security in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, taking into account the responsibility of the Arab States that border the Red Sea to secure their coasts;

15. To request the Secretariat to coordinate with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, and to intensify its cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, particularly the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, so as to coordinate Arab and international efforts to deal with the drought and its catastrophic effect on Somalia and the countries of the Horn of Africa;

16. To appeal to States members to forgive the debts of the Federal Republic of Somalia and thereby enable it to obtain the necessary support from international institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund; to thank Algeria and Saudi Arabia for forgiving the debts of Somalia; and, to that end, to request the Secretariat to coordinate and cooperate with the Somali Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other relevant Somali agencies;

17. To request States members to bear the expenses of Somalia's accredited diplomatic and consular missions in their countries; to have the councils of Arab ambassadors help defray the cost of Somali diplomatic missions and accredited Somali missions to international and regional organizations abroad; and to appeal to Arab States that do not have embassies in Mogadishu to open missions in Somalia;

18. To request the Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant Somali authorities, to meet the needs of the health, firefighting and environmental remediation authorities by purchasing two fire engines, environmental remediation equipment and medical equipment and devices, including dialysis and X-ray equipment; and to allocate ambulances and medical equipment and devices to the Somaliland area, to be paid for by the League's Somalia support account;

19. To thank the Secretary-General for his efforts to achieve Somali reconciliation and to deliver aid to the Somali people; and to request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report to the Council at its next session.

(*Summit resolution 649 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 12 — Support for peace and development in the Republic of the Sudan (resolution 650)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

• The note submitted by the Republic of the Sudan on the exit strategy of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID),

Recalling the resolutions of Arab summits on peace and development in support of the Republic of the Sudan,

Reaffirming its full solidarity with the Sudan in respect of the preservation of its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; and to reject interference in its domestic affairs,

Decides

1. To support the Sudanese Government's efforts to strengthen peace, security and stability, including the various initiatives adopted for that purpose, particularly the initiative of His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir concerning the comprehensive national dialogue process launched in October 2015 and the Sudanese Government's initiative of 21 March 2016 to prepare a road map, which was submitted by the African Union, to settle the causes of the conflict and to achieve a permanent peace throughout the Sudan;

2. To welcome the administrative referendum that was held in Darfur at the designated time in accordance with the Doha document for peace in Darfur; to commend the tireless efforts of the Sudanese Government to address the issues of displaced persons; demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation; and peaceful coexistence and social reconciliation programmes in Darfur;

3. To support the efforts of the joint working group comprising the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations to review the situation of the UNAMID forces; to support the Sudanese Government's vision to conclude the Mission and use its annual budget to support a development, stabilization, security and peace plan for Darfur;

4. To commend the tireless efforts made by the League of Arab States-Sudan Joint Mechanism to execute Arab development projects in Darfur and throughout the Sudan; to call on the Arab States to continue providing financial and technical support in order to complete those development projects;

5. To welcome the efforts that are being made to prepare for the Arab Conference on the Reconstruction and Support of Development in the Sudan, to be held in 2017 in accordance with the resolutions of Arab and Islamic conferences on the topic;

6. To reiterate its full rejection of the unilateral sanctions imposed on the Sudan by the United States; to call on the United States to lift those sanctions immediately; and to express concern regarding the adverse effects of such sanctions on the Sudanese people in various spheres of life.

(Summit resolution 650 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 13 — The occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa (resolution 651)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,

- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Guided by previous summit resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 627 (26th ordinary session, Sharm el-Sheikh, 29 March 2015), regarding the occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa,

Reaffirming the communiqués issued and the resolutions adopted on the same matter by the Council at the ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8010 (145th ordinary session) of 11 March 2016,

Decides

1. To reaffirm without qualification the absolute sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and to support all peaceful measures and means adopted by the United Arab Emirates to regain its sovereignty over the occupied islands;

2. To denounce the continued consolidation by the Iranian Government of its occupation of the three islands and its violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, which can only undermine security and stability in the region and pose a threat to international peace and security;

3. To condemn the building by the Iranian Government of housing facilities in which to settle Iranians on the three occupied United Arab Emirates islands;

4. To condemn the Iranian military manoeuvres being conducted also on the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and in those islands' territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, which constitute an inseparable part of the United Arab Emirates; and to request Iran to desist from such violations and acts of provocation, which constitute interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State; do not promote confidence-building; threaten security and stability in the region; and endanger the security and safety of regional and international navigation in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To condemn the opening by Iran of two offices on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates, and to call upon Iran to close down those illegitimate facilities and respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory;

6. To denounce and condemn the planned fact-finding visit of the members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Consultative Assembly to the occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, an act that would violate the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory and would be inconsistent with attempts to find a peaceful settlement; and to call upon Iran to desist from taking such provocative steps;

7. To commend the United Arab Emirates on its initiative to find a peaceful and just settlement to the issue of the three occupied islands (the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa) with the Islamic Republic of Iran;

8. To appeal once again to the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates, refrain from trying to impose a fait accompli by force, desist from establishing any installations there for the purpose of modifying the islands' demographic composition, revoke all measures unilaterally taken and remove all installations built by Iran on the three Arab islands, inasmuch as such measures and claims are null and void, lack any legal effect, do not detract from the established right of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands and are acts that run counter to the provisions of international law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949; and to call upon the Iranian Government to adopt peaceful means for resolving the existing dispute over them in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice;

9. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its position of rejecting the effort to find a peaceful solution to the question of the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates either through direct, earnest negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice;

10. To call upon Iran to translate its stated desire for improved relations with the Arab countries and for dialogue and détente into practical measures, both in word and in deed, in the form of a genuine response to the earnest appeals launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and by the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab States, international groups, friendly nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calling for a solution to the dispute over the three occupied islands by peaceful means in accordance with customary practice and the covenants and rules of international law, either through direct, earnest negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice, with a view to building trust and enhancing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;

11. To have all Arab States undertake, in their contacts with Iran, to raise the issue of that country's occupation of the three islands and stress the need to end it, based on the fact that the three islands are occupied Arab territory;

12. To inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the importance of maintaining the issue on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized until Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates regains full sovereignty over them;

13. To request the Secretary-General of the League to follow up this matter and report to the Council of the League at its next session.

(Summit resolution 651 — 27th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 14 — Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States (resolution 652)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

• The note of the Secretariat,

• The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Recalling its previous communiqués and resolutions on the topic, the most recent of which is resolution 8011 (11 March 2016),

Mindful of the discussions that took place at the third meeting of the quadripartite Arab ministerial committee tasked with following up on the crisis with Iran and means of responding to Iran's interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, which was held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Mindful of the statements made by the heads of the delegations and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To emphasize that cooperative relations between Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran must be based on the principle good-neighbourly relations, and that the parties must refrain from the use or threat of force; to denounce Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, as that is a violation of the norms of international law and the principles of good-neighbourly relations and State sovereignty; and call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from taking provocative actions that undermine confidence-building and threaten security and stability in the region;

2. To reaffirm that it condemns the breach of the inviolability of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran and its Consulate General in Mashhad, holds the Islamic Republic of Iran responsible for those incidents, and demands that Iran comply with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963); to emphasize that the perpetrators and those responsible for those blatant, disgraceful attacks must be brought to justice in a public trial;

3. To demand that the Iranian Government immediately cease granting asylum and shelter to persons convicted of acts of terror and members of terrorist groups, and to demand that it extradite such persons immediately to the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain;

4. To deplore and condemn the hostile and inflammatory statements that Iranian officials continue to make against Arab States, and to call on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease making hostile statements or taking provocative actions and to halt media campaigns against Arab States, as such conduct is blatant interference in the internal affairs of those States;

5. To call upon the Iranian Government to desist from its policies that kindle sectarian conflicts and refrain from supporting groups that fuel such conflicts in the States of the Arabian Gulf; and to call upon the Iranian Government to stop supporting and financing armed parties and militias in Arab States;

6. To condemn Iran's ongoing occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa); to reaffirm categorically that the United Arab Emirates has full sovereignty over the islands; and to express its support for all peaceful means and measures chosen by the United Arab Emirates to

restore its sovereignty over the islands which, according to international law, are under occupation;

7. To condemn and denounce Iran's ongoing interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain by supporting terrorism, training terrorists and smuggling arms and explosives; provoking sectarian strife; making statements at various levels to undermine security, order and stability; and establishing terrorist groups in Bahrain that are financed and trained by the so-called Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist Hizbullah party. Such conduct is contrary to the principles of good-neighbourly relations and non-interference in internal affairs set out in the Charter of the United Nations and prescribed by international law;

8. To commend the efforts of the security services of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which were able to thwart a terrorist plan in January 2016 and arrest the members of the terrorist organization that was meant to carry out the plan. That organization, which is supported by the so-called Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the terrorist Hizbullah party, was planning to commit a series of grave terrorist acts throughout Bahrain;

9. To denounce Iran's intervention in the Syrian crisis, which has had serious repercussions for the future of Syria and its sovereignty, security, stability, national unity and territorial integrity, and to emphasize that such intervention is detrimental to efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through peaceful means in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué;

10. To denounce Iran's intervention in the internal affairs of Yemen and its backing of forces opposed to the legitimate Government of Yemen, a stance that has affected the security and stability of Yemen, neighbouring countries and the region as a whole;

11. To request the Secretary-General to continue coordinating with the Foreign Ministers of the quadripartite Arab committee composed of the United Arab Emirates (Chair), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with a view to developing an Arab action plan to respond to Iranian interventions in the Arab region; mobilizing international support for Arab opposition to Iran's interventions in the Arab region and to mobilize international support for the Arab stance against such interventions;

12. To include an item entitled "Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of Arab States" on the agendas of Arab platforms of cooperation with international and regional groupings;

13. To include an item entitled "Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of Arab States" on the agenda of twenty-seventh session of the Council of the League at the summit level;

14. To request the relevant organs of the United Nations to include the topic on their respective agendas, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Article 2, paragraph 7, which prohibits interference in the internal affairs of States.

(Summit resolution 65 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)*

Item 15 — Arab position on the violation by Turkish forces of the sovereignty of Iraq (resolution 653)

The Council of the League of Arab States, at the summit level

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,

* – The Republic of Iraq expresses the following reservation to the resolution on Iranian intervention in the domestic affairs of the Arab States, which was adopted by the League Council at the ministerial level at its 145th session on 11 March 2016, as follows:
1. Iraq expresses its reservations regarding the title of the resolution.
2. Iraq completely rejects paragraph 6 and 7 of the resolution because it supports the honourable national opposition, namely, the Lebanese Hizbullah party, which is part of the Lebanese Government that represents the Lebanese people.

– Lebanon expresses its reservations regarding paragraphs 7 and 8, because they refer to Hizbullah as a terrorist party. This designation is unacceptable because it is not sanctioned by the United Nations and is contrary to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, particularly in view of the distinction made between resistance and terrorism. Hizbullah is a key player in Lebanon and represents a large number of Lebanese. It also has substantial representation in Parliament, the ministries and the constitutional institutions of Lebanon. We support the other paragraphs of the resolution, although some of them infringe on the policy of disassociation adopted by the Lebanese Government. In particular, Lebanon supports paragraph 2, which condemns the attacks against the Saudi missions in Iran. Lebanon condemns any intervention in the domestic affairs of the Arab countries. We condemn any intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States. We have requested that the phrase "terrorist Hizbullah party" should be deleted from both paragraphs, so that we might be able to endorse the entire resolution without any reservations.

– In order to confront the mounting threat posed by terrorist organizations, Algeria calls for the international community to coordinate its efforts to combat such organizations in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and on the basis of common goals. The international community should also follow the rules of international law, particularly by adhering to United Nations bulletins and lists with regard to the designation of terrorist groups, which do not include political parties that are recognized at the national and international levels, and that contribute to national political and social life. All actors, whether Governments or parties, must refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

– Comment made by the Tunisian Republic regarding paragraphs 7 and 8 of the resolution. Tunisia recalls the following position, which it expressed at the meeting of the Council of the League at its 145th ordinary session in March 2016.
- All forms of intervention in the internal affairs of States, and all practices that threaten regional security and stability, must be rejected. Tunisia is concerned for the security of the Gulf States. It calls upon all parties to resolve disputes through dialogue and peaceful means and to foster the values of good neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence.
- The fact that Hizbullah has helped liberate of a part of Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation does not entitle it, or any other party, to take any actions that could undermine security and stability in the region.
- The United Arab Emirates expresses a reservation to this resolution.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain expresses a reservation to this resolution.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses a reservation to this resolution.
- The state of Qatar expresses a reservation to this resolution.

- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- Resolution 7987 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level (extraordinary session), dated 24 December 2015,
- The letter dated 29 December 2015 from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Nabil Elaraby, addressed to the President of the Security Council, Samantha Power,
- The note from the delegation of the Republic of Iraq No. 3/*jim*/4/3266 dated 27 June 2016,

Decides

1. To reaffirm the provisions of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level, adopted on 24 December 2015, condemning the incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory, which is a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and a threat to Arab security, and demanding that the Turkish Government withdraw its forces immediately and unconditionally;

2. To call on the States members of the League, in accordance with the principle governing bilateral relations, to request the Turkish Government to withdraw its forces from Iraqi territory in implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at its extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to raise the matter in its communications with States members;

3. To call on States members to request the Turkish Government to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and to stop taking such provocative actions, which undermine confidence-building and threaten the security and stability of the region;

4. To reiterate its support for the Iraqi Government in any measures it may take in accordance with the relevant principles of international law to ensure that the Turkish Government withdraws its forces from Iraqi territory, with a view to consolidating the sovereignty of the Government of Iraq over its entire territory;

5. To approve the addition of a standing agenda item entitled "Incursion of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory and halting Turkish interference in neighbouring Arab countries" to the agenda of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level until such time as those forces have fully withdrawn;

6. To request that the Secretary-General of the League continue to follow up on the implementation of resolution 7987 of the Council of the League, adopted at the extraordinary session of 24 December 2015, and to submit a detailed report to the Council at its next ordinary session;

7. To reiterate that the Arab member of the Security Council, the Arab Republic of Egypt, should continue to press for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory and take all necessary measures until such time as those forces have fully withdrawn.

(Summit resolution 653 — 27th extraordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 16 — Maintenance of Arab national security and counter-terrorism (resolution 654)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up of implementation of resolution 628 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level (29 March 2015) concerning the establishment of a joint Arab force to maintain Arab national security and to combat terrorism,
- The recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Reaffirming the Council's commitment to maintaining Arab national security and combating all terrorist organizations, groups and movements and violent extremism through collective Arab action at the political, security, defence, ideological, judicial and media levels,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen Arab national security, combat terrorism and adopt all measures and actions needed to preserve the national independence of Arab States and restore their security, peace and stability,

Convinced of the need for a political solution to the armed conflicts taking place in several Arab States in order to realize their peoples' aspirations for freedom, dignity and social justice, and uphold the rule of law and justice that underpin the equal right of all citizens to participate in political life,

Inspired by the principles of Arab solidarity and the need for collective action to address dangers and threats in the Arab region, eradicate and defeat terrorist organizations and restore security, domestic peace and stability,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States, particularly resolution 628, the declaration of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit and resolutions 7804, 8018 and 8019 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Decides

1. To request the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Chair of the summit and the Arab summit troika, to continue consultations with the States members to implement resolution 628 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level (29 March 2015), which provides for the establishment of a joint Arab force;

2. To strongly condemn the criminal operations of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), al-Qaeda and other armed, extremist groups and movements that promote religious, sectarian or ethnic slogans to incite violence, extremism and terrorism; to condemn terrorism in all its forms all forms and manifestations as an attack on all countries without exception; and to oppose all forms of extremism and violent currents;

3. To express strong concern at the dangerous developments arising from acts of terrorism in a number of Arab States, which have come to threaten Arab national

security in all its dimensions — political, security, economic and social — and endanger regional and international peace and security;

4. To express solidarity with the Arab States and other States whose citizens, security and stability are being targeted by terrorist organizations; and to express deep condolences to the families of all victims who have died as a result of terrorist acts;

5. To reaffirm its total rejection of the linkage of terrorism with any religion, sect, ethnicity or culture; and to take action to pursue the war against terrorism and eradicate that scourge;

6. To reaffirm the need for continued efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks of the League of Arab States for the maintenance of Arab national security and counter-terrorism;

7. To strengthen communication and coordination with various national, regional and international initiatives and efforts to combat and eliminate terrorism and its causes; to implement international conventions on the combating of terrorism; to strengthen coordination among the Arab States and with the international community, both States and organizations, to dry up the sources for the financing of terrorism and terrorism organizations;

8. To firmly condemn the acts of terror perpetrated by the terrorist organization ISIL, particularly its use of mustard gas projectiles to bombard the district of Tazah in the Republic of Iraq; and to call on Arab and international organizations to provide all forms of assistance to alleviate the effects of that terrorist act, particularly by providing medical assistance for persons who were critically injured in the attack;

9. To underscore that the Council of Arab Ministers for the Interior has an important role to play in combating terrorism and violent extremism, particularly in the light of its considerable efforts to combat terrorism organizations, movements and groups; and to provide the necessary support for its efforts;

10. To re-evaluate and update strategies and conventions aimed at combating terrorism and extremist groups in accordance with developments in the activities of the criminal groups; to create a reliable integrated legal and security system to eradicate terrorism;

11. To welcome all national initiatives of the States members and the outcomes of the conferences and seminars that they have held on combating terrorist organizations and extremism, and to promote those outcomes with a view to eradicating terrorism. In particular, the Council decides:

- To reaffirm the importance of World Interfaith Harmony Week, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in a resolution which it adopted by a consensus based on the initiative and proposal of His Highness King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 2012, and Jordan's other initiatives, including the Amman Message, which enshrines the principles of tolerance, moderation, peaceful coexistence, and A Common Word;
- To welcome the outcomes of the recommendations of the international conference on combating the financing of terrorism, which was held in Bahrain

in November 2014 and the Manama Declaration, which was adopted at that conference; and to welcome the convening of a conference in Bahrain in November 2015 on preventing the exploitation of civil society organizations to finance terrorism;

- To welcome the outcomes of the international conference on combating and eradicating violent extremism, which was held in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on 22 and 23 July 2015; and to welcome the outcomes of the international conference on the role of the internet and social media in combating and preventing electronic extremism, which was held in Algeria during on 27 and 28 April 2016;

- To commend the Kingdom of Morocco on becoming co-chair of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum after its unanimous election alongside the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and to welcome the establishment of the Mohammed VI Foundation for African Ulama, which seeks to spread the values of tolerance and moderation and to refute misleading extremist ideas; and to welcome the recommendations of the international conference held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in January 2016 on the topic "The rights of religious minorities in predominantly Muslim lands: legal framework and a call to action";

- To welcome the Mauritanian counter-terrorism strategy and to note the outcomes of the international conference on the Mauritanian experience of counter-terrorism that was held in Nouakchott from 2 to 4 February 2013, and the outcomes of the international conference on the Mauritanian approach to the culture of peace and moderation in the face of violent extremism, which was held on 19 and 20 August 2015 under the auspices of the United Nations;

12. To request the Secretariat, in coordination with the States members of the relevant Arab ministerial councils, to adopt the necessary measures to examine the possibility of incorporating new amendments to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and all forms of organized crime, including illegal immigration, which is a source of financing of terrorism; and to develop the necessary measures on border security, the cross-border flow of weapons, kidnap and ransom and the participation of foreign fighters in the activities of terrorist groups;

13. To request the Secretary-General to invite the competent Arab ministerial councils — particularly the councils of ministers of justice, the interior, education and culture, media and social affairs — to develop working plans and programmes that reject terrorist organizations, eliminate ideological and religious extremism, promote the values of tolerance, moderation and avoidance of strife, and uphold human rights principles;

14. To call upon religious institutions in the Arab States to intensify their preaching activities, develop programmes to renew religious discourse, emphasize the Islamic religion's tolerance and moderation and regulate religious education to remove all manifestations of ideological and religious extremism;

15. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to prepare periodic reports on the measures taken for that purpose.

(*Summit resolution 654 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 17 — Statement of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level concerning solidarity with the State of Qatar and condemnation of the abduction of Qatari citizens in Iraq, adopted in Nouakchott on 25 July 2016 (Council 01-01/(16/07)/27-Statement (0296))

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, at its 27th ordinary session, followed with great concern the abduction of a number of Qatari citizens in Iraq, who had entered Iraq with official permission from the Iraqi Ministry of Interior in coordination with the Iraqi Embassy in Qatar.

The Council emphasizes that, by carrying out this act of terrorism, the kidnappers have blatantly violated international law, human rights, Islamic law and the bonds of brotherhood among Arabs.

The Council emphasizes its full solidarity with the Qatari Government regarding any legal measure which it adopts. The Council expresses its hope that the contacts being held by the Qatari Government with the Iraqi Government will result in the release of the abductees and their safe return to their country. The Council calls upon the Iraqi Government to bear responsibility for the safety and release of the abductees.

Economic and social affairs

Item 18 — Follow-up to the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Arab summit at its 26th session (Sharm el-Sheikh, 28-29 March 2015) (economic and social affairs)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The Secretary-General's report on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- The final report of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments on the follow-up of implementation of the resolutions of the Arab summit at its 26th ordinary session (Sharm el-Sheikh, March 2015) concerning economic and social affairs,
- The recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussion that took place,

Decides

To take note of the actions taken Arab States and to invite them, along with the Secretariat of the League, the competent Arab ministerial councils and joint Arab

action institutions to follow up the implementation of economic and social resolutions of the Arab summit at its 26th ordinary session (Sharm el-Sheikh, 28-29 March 2015).

(Summit resolution 655 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 19 — Follow-up to the implementation of the resolutions of the Arab economic and social development summit at its third session (Riyadh, 21 and 22 January 2013) (resolution 656)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social activity,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- The report of the Secretariat on follow-up to the implementation of the resolutions of the third Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 21 and 22 January 2013), and the recommendation of the second meeting of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at the ministerial level held in Nouakchott on 23 July 2016,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussion that took place,

Decides

To take note of the actions taken by the Arab States, the Secretariat of the League, the competent Arab ministerial councils and joint Arab action institutions to follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit at its third session (Riyadh, January 2013), and to invite them to continue to implement the resolutions of the Development Summit.

I. Economic affairs

1. To take note of the efforts of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to implement the initiative of His Highness Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, to provide financial resources to support and finance small and medium private enterprises in the Arab world. The contributions pledged to date total $1,310,000,000, of which $1,267,500,000 million have been paid. Since the account was established, the special account management committee has approved 31 loans worth $1,106,000,000. The loans have been granted to companies in 12 Arab countries;

2. To again urge those States members that have not yet announced or paid their full contribution to the Arab fund to do so;

3. To call upon the participating Arab companies to complete the necessary procedures, as required by their boards, to increase their capital by at least 50 per cent;

4. To call upon the Arab States to support and strengthen shipping lines between the Arab States to support inter-Arab trade, dedicate the necessary attention

to logistical services and support and develop the infrastructure of the logistical areas in the Arab States.

II. Social affairs

1. To continue to intensify Arab political action at the United Nations and its specialized agencies to implement international conventions on the protection of civilian persons in time of war and civilian persons under military occupation in the Palestinian territories to enable medical and relief aid to enter the Palestinian territories;

2. To support the efforts of the Arab Action Organization, in coordination with the States members and in cooperation with all partners, to implement an integrated program to support employment and reduce unemployment in the Arab States based on the relevant resolutions of Arab summits and in accordance with resolution 2092 (18 February 2016) of the Economic and Social Council to reduce unemployment rates in the framework of the implementation of the relevant objectives in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. To strengthen the efforts of the council of Arab ministers of social affairs, in coordination with the ministerial councils and specialized Arab organizations and in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to prepare multidimensional Arab indicators of poverty in the framework of the implementation of the relevant objectives in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(Summit resolution 656 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 20 — Midway report for 2010-2015 on the Progress of the Arab Atomic Energy Commission in Implementing the Arab Strategy for the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Arab Atomic Energy Commission,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- The Arab Strategy for the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy through 2020 adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level in Doha pursuant to resolution 472 (30 March 2009),
- The midway report for 2010-2015 on the progress of the Arab Atomic Energy Commission in implementing the Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of atomic energy,

Recalling the appeal of the Arab leaders at the Khartoum summit (18th ordinary session, 29 March 2006) concerning the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the Arab States,

Recalling resolution 383 of the Riyadh Summit (29 March 2007), resolution 425 of the Damascus Summit (30 March 2008) and resolution 471 of the Doha Summit

(30 March 2009) on the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the States members of the League of Arab States,

Emphasizing that the peaceful use of atomic energy is a fundamental right of the State parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to which all States members of the League of Arab States have acceded, and emphasizing that the Arab States are entitled to international support for the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, particularly the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Noting the measures adopted by the United Arab Emirates to activate the first nuclear reactor for the generation of electricity in the short term and to bring online other reactors; efforts of Jordan and Egypt to promote their nuclear stations programmes; and the conclusion of agreements with the Russian Federation for the construction of nuclear power reactors,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To thank the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for paying its dues to the Arab Atomic Energy Commission; to thank Morocco for completing the final procedures for joining the Commission by promulgating a law approving the updated convention for the Arab Atomic Energy Commission; to urge the Arab States that have not yet joined the Commission to do so in order to support mutual assistance and integration among the Arab States in this regard;

2. To commend the progress that has been achieved by the Arab States in implementing the Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, particularly the countries that have adopted advanced measures to construct nuclear stations and reactors, incorporate nuclear technology and build nuclear power reactors (Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt); to stress the need to strengthen nuclear security and safety in the Arab region by strengthening activities relating to this subject through the Arab network of nuclear observers under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Arab Atomic Energy Commission;

3. To urge the Arab States that have not joint or paid their dues to the Commission to do so promptly to enable the Commission to continue performing its role in implementing the strategy;

4. To request the Secretary-General to follow-up the subject of this resolution and report thereon to the next session of the Council.

(*Summit resolution 657 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 21 — Periodicity of the convening of the Arab economic and social development summit (resolution 658)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,

- Resolution 2079 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- The working paper of the Secretariat on the merging of the Arab economic and social development summit with the ordinary Arab summit,
- Note No. WQ/MN/846 of the Ministry of the Economy of the United Arab Emirates, dated 5 June 2016,
- Note 538 of the permanent mission of the Republic of Tunisia, dated 16 June 2016,
- Note 324/6310 of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, dated 3 July 2016,
- Note 3/J/22/3289 of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq, dated 3 July 2016,
- Note 7854 of the Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman, dated 18 July 2016,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To approve the holding of the Arab economic and social development summit once every four years at the level of heads of state, before the United Nations General Assembly convenes, to ascertain the progress achieved in reaching the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. To request that Secretariat report every two years to the ordinary Arab summit on progress in the implementation of Arab development summit resolutions, without action on the part of States members.

(*Summit resolution 658 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 22 — Developments concerning the Arab Customs Union (item 659)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 29 of the Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 22 January 2013, particularly paragraph 7 thereof,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

To request the Economic and Social Council to task the Arab Customs Union Committee with developing legislative frameworks for the facilitation of trade and customs duties under the Customs Union and any other topics concerning the Arab

Customs Union through the committees that were or may be formed in the context of the union, based on cooperation with the concerned international and regional organizations towards a comprehensive frame of reference concerning details of the Customs Union; and to present the results to the Economic and Social Council at its next session.

(Summit resolution 659 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 23 — Establishment of a mechanism for implementing the initiative of His Excellency President Omar Al-Bashir for Arab agricultural investment in the Sudan to achieve Arab food security (item 660)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 29 of the Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 22 January 2013, particularly paragraph 6 thereof,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- Note 2-16-107 of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Sudan to the League of Arab States, dated 29 May 2016,
- The study entitled "Achieving food security for the Arab countries through the Sudan Project", prepared by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in cooperation with the Lahmeyer Group,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To welcome the recommendations in the study entitled "Achieving food security for the Arab States through the Sudan Project", including the integrated sectoral plan and model for Arab food security projects; to transmit a copy of the study and plan to the States members, specialized Arab organizations and the private sector; and to invite them to intensify their investments in agricultural projects in the Sudan;

2. To request the Secretariat and relevant specialized Arab organizations, in coordination with the Sudanese Government, to create appropriate mechanisms to ensure the expeditious implementation of this resolution;

3. To request that the Secretariat prepare a comprehensive report on implementation of the initiative for submission to the next Arab summit in 2017.

(Summit resolution 660 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 24 — Executive plan for the water security strategy in the Arab region to cope with future challenges and the requirements of sustainable development (item 661)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action;
- Resolution 29 of the Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 22 January 2013, particularly paragraph 8 thereof,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- Resolution 86 of the Arab Ministerial Council for Water (27 May 2014),
- Executive plan for the water security strategy in the Arab region to cope with future challenges and the requirements of sustainable development

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To adopt the executive plan (see document Q/27(07/16/61QL(0334)), which was approved by the Arab Ministerial Council for Water;

2. To request the Arab Ministerial Council for Water to implement the executive plan in coordination with the Arab Centre Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and in cooperation with specialized Arab organizations, relevant regional and international organizations, donors and Arab funds.

(Summit resolution 661 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 25 — Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030 (item 662)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- Resolution 10 of the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Construction (22 December 2015),
- The Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To approve the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (see document Q/27(07/16/61QL(0334));

2. To request the Council of Ministers for Housing and Construction to provide assistance and technical support to the Arab countries in following up the implementation of the strategy in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) regional office for the Arab States.

(Summit resolution 662 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 26 — Outcomes of the ministerial conference on "Implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in the Arab States: social dimensions" (item 663)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- Resolutions 787 (13 December 2015) and 6 (7 April 2016) of the council of Arab ministers for social affairs,
- The outcomes of the ministerial conference on "Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in the Arab States: social dimensions", which was held on 6 and 7 April 2016,

Commending the initiative of the Council of Arab ministers for social affairs in organizing the first regional ministerial conference at the world level for the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030,

Emphasizing its determination to move forward to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on Arab priorities and taking to account the special nature of the region and the unprecedented developments it is undergoing,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To thank His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for overseeing the proceedings of the first regional ministerial conference at the world level on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States: social dimensions (Cairo, 6 and 7 April 2016) and for his considerable efforts to support joint Arab action;

2. To adopt the "Arab declaration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: social dimensions", adopted at the ministerial conference (see document Q/27(07/16/61QL(0334));

3. To request that the Secretariat, in coordination with the ministerial councils, specialized Arab organizations and all partners, implement the declaration, including through mechanisms to be established by the League with a view to supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States;

4. To request that the Secretariat present the declaration at the next session of the United Nations General Assembly.

(*Summit resolution 663 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 27 — Cairo Declaration on Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls and the plan for the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Arab Women (item 664)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 7965 of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level (13 September 2015),
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- The Cairo Declaration on Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls,
- The plan for the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Arab Women,
- The strategic plan for the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Arab Women,
- Note J/1/2/21-A-169 of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates, dated 10 August 2015,
- Note ShS 05/2016 of the Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, dated 4 January 2016,
- Note 32/2016 of the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait, dated 20 January 2016,
- Note 457/2/MF/2016 of the Permanent Mission of the State of Palestine, dated 16 February 2016,
- Note 653 of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco, dated 9 March 2016,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

To request that the Economic and Social Council further study the Cairo Declaration on Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls and the strategic executive plan for the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Women in the Arab Region

in order to exhaustively treat all aspects of the subject in view of the remarks of the States members and to present the study to the next Arab summit.

(Summit resolution 664 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 28 — Arab Strategy for Scientific and Technological Research and Innovation (item 665)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 537 of the Council of the League at the summit level (28 March 2010),
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- The recommendations of the 14th Conference of the Arab Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Arab World (Riyadh, 13 March 2014),
- Note 2 of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, dated 12 January 2016,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

To request the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization to update the Arab Strategy for Scientific and Technological Research and Innovation based on the proposals and visions of the States members for presentation to the Economic and Social Council, with a view to submission to the Arab summit at its 28th ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 665 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 29 — Establishment of an Arab centre for medical and laboratory research (item 666)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- Resolutions 3 (19 May 2014) and 19 (3 March 2016) of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health,

- Notes 735 (13 April 2016) and 795 (21 April 2016) of the Arab Republic of Egypt concerning the project to establish an Arab medical and laboratory research centre,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To welcome the initiative of Egypt to establish an Arab centre for medical and laboratory research;

2. To request that the Secretariat, in coordination with the Arab Republic of Egypt as the proposing State and with those States that wish to participate, take the necessary measures to implement the initiative;

3. To request that the Secretariat report to the Economic and Social Council on the topic.

(Summit resolution 666 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 30 — Establishment of the Arab Centre for Cooperation and Research on HIV/AIDS (item 667)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolution 2078 of the Economic and Social Council (18 February 2016),
- Resolutions 4 (26 February 2015) and 19 (3 March 2016) of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health,
- Note ShS /219/2016 of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, dated 10 April 2016, concerning the project to establish the Arab Centre for Cooperation and Research on HIV-AIDS,

Having heard the clarifications of the Secretariat,

Mindful of the discussions that took place,

Decides

1. To highly commend the initiative of Algeria to establish the Arab Centre for Cooperation Research on HIV/AIDS; and to welcome the financing of the centre based on the national capacities and resources of Algeria;

2. To request that the Secretariat, in coordination with Algeria as the proposing State and with those States that wish to participate, take the necessary measures to implement the initiative;

3. To request that the Secretariat report to the Economic and Social Council on the topic.

(Summit resolution 667 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Item 31 — Development of the League of Arab States (item 668)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,
- Resolutions 8002 and 8003 of the Council of the League at the ministerial level (145th ordinary session, 11 November 2016),

Commending the work of the Open Committee for the Reform and Development of the League, chaired by the Arab Republic of Egypt, and its working groups,

Acting on the basis of resolution 621 of the Council of the League at the summit level (26th ordinary session, 29 March 2015),

Decides

1. To reaffirm the importance of developing the League of Arab States and its system;

2. To note the outcomes of the proceedings of the Open Committee for the Reform and Development of the League and its working groups;

3. To request that Open Committee and its working groups, chaired by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, promptly conclude their proceedings and submit their findings to the Council of the League at the ministerial level at its 147th session in preparation for submission to the Council of the League at the summit level at its 28th ordinary session the adoption of such measures as it deems appropriate.

(*Summit resolution 668 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 32 — Welcoming of the appointment of His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit as Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (item 669)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- Resolution 7989 of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level at its ordinary session (10 March 2016), concerning the appointment of Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit as Secretary-General of the League of Arab States,
- Article 12 of the Charter of the League,
- Article 2 of the annex to the Charter concerning the mechanism for convening the summit,

Bearing in mind the postponement of the 27th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, which was scheduled for March-June 2016,

Decides

1. To welcome the appointment of His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit as Secretary-General of the League of Arab States for a five-year term starting on 1 July 2016, and to wish him success in his duties;

2. To thank His Excellency Nabil Elaraby, former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, for his outstanding performance at the helm of joint Arab action during the past five years.

(*Summit resolution 669 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 33 — Date and place of the 28th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level (item 670)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Acting on the basis of the annex to the League Charter concerning the mechanism for the periodic convening of the Council of the League at the summit level,

Acting pursuant to article 4, paragraph (a) of the annex to the Charter concerning the periodic convening of the Council of the League at the summit level, which states as follows: "The ordinary sessions of the Council at the summit level shall be held at the headquarters of the League in Cairo. The State which chairs the summit may request to host the summit if it so desires",

Having heard the statement of His Excellency Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, at the closing session of the summit,

Decides

To welcome the assumption by the Republic of Yemen of chair of the 28th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level in March 2017.

(*Summit resolution 670 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016*)

Item 34 — Expression of gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for hosting the 27th ordinary summit in Nouakchott (item 671)

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab economic and social action,

Commending the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for graciously hosting the proceedings of the 27th ordinary session of the Council of the League at the summit level and for its considerable efforts in preparing and organizing the proceedings of this session,

Decides

1. To express the utmost gratitude to His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, for his considerable efforts to ensure the success of the summit and to wisely manage its proceedings; and to express full confidence in his sound leadership of joint Arab action and his promotion of the development and expansion of joint Arab action and consolidation of Arab solidarity for a better future in the interest of the Arab nation;

2. To express gratitude to the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for their warm reception, gracious hospitality, skilful organization of the meetings of the Council at the summit level and the preparatory councils prior to the summit, assumption of responsibility for holding the summit at its designated time despite the difficult circumstances and major challenges facing the Arab world, and for providing all the necessary resources and arrangements to ensure that the summit took place in the optimal conditions and resulted in the desired outcomes.

(Summit resolution 671 — 127th ordinary session — 25 July 2016)

Nouakchott Declaration (Summit 27 (16/07)/31 — Declaration) (0300))

We, the leaders of the Arab States, meeting in the 27th session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level on 20 Shawwal 1437 corresponding to 25 July 2016 in Nouakchott, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania:

Reaffirming the principles and objectives contained in the Charter of the League and subsequent treaties and protocols,

Determined to realize and give effect to such principles and objectives so as to serve and strengthen inter-Arab relations and bonds based on Arab solidarity and the supreme interests of the nation,

Mindful of our historical responsibilities to our Arab countries and desiring to keep pace with the aspirations of the Arab people, maintain basic freedoms and consolidate democratic values, justice and equality to build societies capable of remaining steadfast in the face of contemporary global challenges,

Inspired by the resolutions of the Arab summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt during 28-29 March 2015, which emphasize the importance of examining the challenges facing Arab national security and the need to adopt the necessary measures to deal with these challenges in order to maintain the unity and territorial integrity of the Arab States,

Having assessed the current conditions of the Arab world from the perspective of the fundamental changes and events that have occurred in the Arab region in recent years and the enormous challenges which they pose to the structure of the Arab regional order,

Having reviewed the options for defining the strategic approaches for establishing a new course in joint Arab action that strengthens inter-Arab relations and opens broader horizons for Arab-African cooperation based on in interest in establishing an "Arab Neighbourhood Zone" that protects Arab national security and helps counter terrorism,

Declare

1. We are committed to pursuing the most effective practical ways for addressing the threats and dangers facing Arab national security by developing mechanisms for combating terrorism and strengthening Arab security and peace by disseminating the values of peace, moderation and dialogue and renouncing the culture of extremism, sowing of discord and stirring up of hatred to enable the Arab societies to defend themselves and maintain their cohesion and independence as a path towards a safe, prosperous Arab future.

2. We reaffirm the centrality of the Palestinian issue in our joint Arab action, continued support of the resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of systematic Israeli aggression and the dedication of all efforts to achieving a comprehensive, just permanent solution based on the Arab peace initiative, Madrid principles, rules of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. In this context, we welcome recent Egyptian efforts to promote the peace process. We also

welcome the French initiative, which calls for holding an international peace conference to pave the way for: the halting of all Israeli settlement activity to thereby guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to establish, according to a specific timetable, its independent state within the 4 June 1967 borders with its capital in East Jerusalem and with full sovereignty over its airspace, territorial waters and international borders; a just solution for the issue of refugees; the lifting of the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip; the release of all Palestinian prisoners; and the halting of attacks on al-Aqsa Mosque and Israeli actions intended to Judaize East Jerusalem. We call upon the international community to implement United Nations resolutions enjoining the end of the Israeli occupation and the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan, to the 4 June 1967 borders and from the occupied lands in south Lebanon. We call upon the international community, including the Security Council, to assume its responsibilities to end the occupation and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. We commend the efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to declare 2017 the international year to end the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. We urge the States members and Secretariat to take action to ensure that the United Nations adopts this initiative.

3. We are firmly convinced of the need to enhance the bonds of brotherhood and Arab cohesion based on unity of purpose and destiny, develop inter-Arab relations, move beyond existing disputes and establish a structure for Arab action that takes into account the current changes and the aspirations of the Arab people based on a commitment to address Arab conflicts through amicable means, achieve national reconciliation and settle temporary differences to preclude any pretext for foreign intervention in and encroachment on the domestic affairs of the Arab States. Accordingly, we call on the parties in Libya to make urgent efforts to complete the rebuilding of the Government and to oppose the terrorist groups. We call on the Libyan House of Representatives to complete the actions needed to approve a National Reconciliation Government. We also affirm our support for the legitimate Government of Yemen, as represented by His Excellency President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi, and our support for the continuation of consultations in Kuwait with a view towards producing positive results based on the terms of reference in Security Council resolution 2216, other relevant Security Council resolutions, the initiative and executive mechanisms of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and the outcomes of the Yemeni National Dialogue Conference so as to preserve the unity of Yemeni state institutions and the unity and territorial integrity of Yemen. In the same context, we hope that the brothers in Syria will reach a political solution that is based on the preservation of Syrian unity and that maintains the country's independence and the dignity of its people according to the Geneva Communique of 30 June 2012, the declarations of the International Syria Support Group and relevant Security Council resolutions. We support Iraq in respect of the preservation of its unity and territorial integrity, its confrontation with terrorist groups and its efforts to liberate its territory from the terrorist organization ISIL. We welcome the progress that has been made in the Somali national reconciliation and rebuilding of state institutions. We affirm our solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in its efforts to strengthen peace and development throughout the Sudan and to maintain its national sovereignty. We welcome the national dialogue process that

is ongoing. We welcome the ongoing efforts to promote the Sudan Arab Food Security Initiative as a foundation of Arab national security. We hope the International Arab Conference on Reconstruction and Development in the Sudan scheduled for 2017 will achieve its desired objective.

4. We reject foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the Arab States, particularly Iranian interventions, which threaten Arab national security.

5. We firmly desire to create an environment that is resistant to extremism by consolidating democracy, good governance and respect for human rights; expanding the participation of women and promoting youth to harness their energies, capabilities and vitality to promote Arab societies and assume decision-making posts to enhance their e and involvement in society; and fortifying youth with knowledge and awareness to prevent them from falling into the trap of organizations involved in violence and illegal immigration.

6. We seek to consolidate the values of solidarity and interdependence among the Arab States, support human capacities, cultivate Arab scientists and dedicate concern to Arab labour to enable it to take advantage of the lion's share of job opportunities in the Arab world to thereby strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and maintain our identity and cultural and civilizational foundations.

7. We are resolved to maintain our cultural unity and commitment to literary Arabic as a symbol of Arab identity and a receptacle of Arab thought and culture, and to promote and develop the Arabic language by enacting national legislation that protects it, preserves its heritage, enables it to absorb modern science and technology and thereby contribute to the scientific revolution and digital society, and diffuses the Arabic language regionally to buttress the Arab culture and civilization. We are also resolved to strengthen the international status of the Arabic language to enrich world cultures and human civilization.

8. We shall act to develop and expand the content of the Joint Arab Action System and mechanisms, request joint Arab institutions to develop the operating methods of the Joint Arab Action System, expedite the implementation of existing Arab integration projects, expand opportunities for investments among the Arab States, create mechanisms to help the least developed Arab countries rehabilitate their economies, channel Arab investments in the public and private sectors towards the promotion of small and medium enterprises that target youth, promote the green economy to achieve sustainable development and reduce environmental risks according to the terms of reference of the Paris Climate Change Conference (2015). We call upon all Arab States to participate effectively in the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will be hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in Marrakesh in November 2016.

9. We support Arab and international humanitarian relief efforts to provide urgent aid to those who have been made refugees and have been displaced by wars and conflicts, develop Arab humanitarian and relief work mechanisms, introduce the necessary mechanisms within the Arab system to meet the urgent humanitarian needs and help affected persons and the countries hosting them.

10. We renew our call to compel Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and subject its nuclear installations and programmes to international supervision and the comprehensive safeguards regime. We request the Arab ministers for foreign affairs to review various nuclear and WMD disarmament issues and to study all available alternatives for safeguarding Arab national security and regional security. We emphasize the need to make the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction.

11. We call for the strengthening of cooperation and partnerships between the League of Arab States and emerging states and regional and international blocks and organizations in forums and institutional frameworks, particularly, Arab-African cooperation, which constitutes a key strategic dimension. We call for the building of effective partnerships that achieve the interests of all parties and contribute to the flourishing of international cooperation. In this regard, we welcome the holding of the fourth session of the Arab-African summit in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, in November of this year based on the principles and rules established in the previous two summits.

12. We welcome the appointment of His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit as the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. We wish him success in performing his duties. We express our deep appreciation to Nabil Elaraby, the former Secretary-General of the League, for his efforts throughout his term to strengthen joint Arab action under exceptional circumstances in the Arab world and extremely complex regional and international challenges. We thank the officials and employees of the Secretariat for their enthusiasm and hard work in ensuring the success of the summit proceedings.

13. We express our deep gratitude to His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and to the Mauritanian people and Government for the warm reception, gracious hospitality, skilful organization and smooth management of the summit proceedings.

Nouakchott
Tuesday, 20 Shawwal A.H. 1437 (25 July A.D. 2016)

Statement of His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania at the opening meeting of the 27th of ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level (Summit 27 (16/07)/31 — statement) (0314))

In the name of God, the Merciful

May peace and blessings be upon His prophets and messengers

Your highnesses,
Prime Ministers,
Mr. Secretary-General of the League of Arab States,
Mr. Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf,
Mr. Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am first of all pleased to welcome you warmly to the city of Nouakchott and to express the pride of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in welcoming you to your second country on this happy occasion of the 27th ordinary session of the Council of League of Arab States at the summit level.

It is an important event long-awaited by all Mauritanians. For the first time, our country is honoured to host the summit of the League of Arab States. We highly value your presence in the land of the minaret and hospice. We thank you for enduring the long trip despite the preoccupations of leadership weighing upon you.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his good efforts throughout Egypt's presidency of the past session of this summit, which has greatly advanced joint Arab action.

I also warmly salute his Excellency Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad and rotating Chairperson of the African Union for his presence with us today, which reflects the depth of the relations that bind the Arab world with the African continent as well as the desire of all of us here to strengthen and develop these relations.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Nabil Elaraby for the great work he has done during his tenure as Secretary-General of the Arab League. I welcome His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League, and wish him success in his new duties.

The League of Arab States was established 70 years ago. It is a regional organization concerned with defending the vital interests of the Arab nation, coordinating joint Arab action and acting positively in the international arena to serve international peace and security. The Arabs have achieved considerable successes in a number of areas, including the elimination of colonialism in the Arab world, the promotion of inter-Arab solidarity and cooperation and the unification of the Arab

States' positions on international issues. They have done so in circumstances that have generally been unfavourable.

Their success can be attributed to the selflessness of the Arab leaders since the establishment of the League in serving a joint enterprise and constantly adhering to a spirit of reconciliation and consensus on the fateful issues of the nation.

We are currently facing major challenges, chief among which is creating a just, permanent solution to the central Arab issue, namely the Palestinian issue, as well as addressing terrorism and reducing foci of tension and conflict stoked by foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the Arab States. The achievement of sustainable, integrated development in the Arab region is also a major task for our nation to reclaim the leading position it occupied among the nations during the golden age of its history.

The troubled conditions and resurging crises of the Arab region at present have led some to believe that the Palestinian issue has receded among the Arabs' priorities. This in turn has encouraged the Israeli Government to withdraw from the peace process and persist with its settlement policy.

The Palestinian issue is the primary issue of the Arabs and all free people in the world and will remain so until a just, permanent solution is found based on relevant United Nations resolutions and the proposals of the Arab initiative, which represent a strong foundation for arriving at the desired solution, so that the region can finally enjoy peace, security and stability.

In this context, resumption of negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, based on binding international guarantees, known deadlines, the freezing of settlement activity, the halting of violence against Palestinians, the lifting of the unjust Israeli blockade on the Palestinians and the reconstruction of what was destroyed in the aggression are all essential conditions for reaching a final solution to the conflict in the Middle East region.

The region will continue to be a source of instability unless a permanent, just solution is found for the Palestinian issue that ensures the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to establish its independent state with its capital in Jerusalem and the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanese Shebaa Farms, so that all states in the region can live in peace, security and cooperation.

Terrorism is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity today. Blind violence that claims innocent lives, rips apart societies and destroys countries, especially in the Arab region, requires all of us to confront terror groups forcefully and decisively and to resist the hateful, extremist rhetoric that uses Islam as a cover. Despite the successes which our countries have achieved individually in combating terrorism, which have greatly reduced the phenomenon, uprooting terrorism requires the development of a collective, multidimensional strategy.

This strategy must be based on the achievement of sustainable development in the Arab world. Sustainable development will fulfil the aspirations of all segments of our peoples, particularly the most fragile. Our Governments and security agencies must coordinate in developing integrated plans for eliminating the danger of terrorism. The role of religious institutions must be strengthened to fortify youth against the propaganda of extremist organizations and to provide an accurate image of

Islam's tolerance, moderation and humane message, which champions virtue, good character traits and morals.

In Mauritania, we have applied this approach by enhancing the effectiveness of our Armed Forces and security forces to enable them to move the battle to the terrorists' lairs. We have initiated a dialogue between our venerable clerics and youth who have been lured into adopting extremist ideas. We have launched major development projects for the most fragile groups.

All of these actions have enabled us to eliminate the danger of terrorism within our borders and to dry up its springs and tributaries.

The time has come to find comprehensive solutions for the crises that are sweeping some of the Arab countries. Such solutions must preserve those countries' territorial unity and restore harmony among their constituents. There is no alternative in Syria to a political agreement among all the parties that is based on the preservation of the unity of Syria and the engagement of all parties in rebuilding the country and its institutions on foundations decided by the Syrian people and its national political elites. Five years of armed conflict have brought Syria only destruction, killing and displacement of the population and the rending of the country's social fabric, which has historically been cohesive.

In Yemen, the internecine fighting would have undermined the unity of society and fragmented the State had it not been for the good efforts to address the crisis by encouraging the parties to the conflict to enter into serious negotiations. We hope that the negotiations will lead to a political agreement that preserves the Yemeni state as a unified entity and establishes rules for existing legitimate institutions.

In this context, we greatly appreciate the sound leadership of Kuwait in sponsoring the negotiations between the Yemeni parties and the desire of His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al Sabah to bring together the Yemeni parties and help them achieve a comprehensive agreement that stops the destructive war and begins the reconstruction process. We salute the great efforts made by the United Nations through the special envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, which aim to facilitate and ensure the success of the negotiations.

In recent years, Libyans have suffered from instability and the build-up of terrorist groups, which endanger neighbouring countries and threaten the entire Sahel.

More now than ever, we are called upon to support the efforts of the brothers in Libya to devise a comprehensive agreement that preserves the territorial unity of Libya, generates stability, engages all Libyans in the management of public affairs and launches reconstruction.

In Iraq, we salute the victories of the Iraqi people in regaining control over all its territory and the cohesion of all of sects and denominations, which has restored Iraq to its natural position in the Arab nation.

We salute the great efforts made by the Somali people to restore security and stability after decades of internecine fighting. We appreciate the major role undertaken by the African Union Mission to Somalia alongside the Somali security forces to strengthen peace and security.

Despite all that has been achieved, Somalia continues to need the support of its brothers and friends to achieve stability within the entire Federal Republic of Somalia.

We look forward to the development of a comprehensive approach to solve all conflicts affecting the Arab States based on a common vision that prevents the spread of crises and conflicts to other countries. All of us are responsible for healing the rift and pursuing reconciliation among brothers. What unites them is so much greater than that which can be exploited to sow dissension among them.

Successfully addressing these challenges requires the consolidation of security and stability and the achievement of sustainable development that takes advantage of the Arab world's human capacities, enormous resources and excellent geographic position to develop a comprehensive economic strategy. The strategy should be based on the integration of our countries. It should incentivize employment and provides a favourable climate for unleashing our region's youthful energies and enabling our youth to contribute effectively to public life and play a major role in development.

In conclusion, I again welcome you to your second country, Mauritania, which, throughout history, has been a cultural bridge between the Arabs and the Africans. The Mauritanian people are proud of their pioneering role in spreading Arab and Islamic civilization throughout the African continent.

Welcome to this part of the Arab world. I hope that you have a pleasant stay in Mauritania. May our Arab nation achieve great progress and may its endeavours be well rewarded and successful.

Statement of His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at the opening meeting of the 27th of ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level (Summit 27 (16/07)/31 — statement) (0282))

In the name of God, the Merciful,

Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chair of the 27th Arab summit
Mr. Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad and current Chair of the African Union,
Excellencies, your Majesties,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to express my great pleasure at taking up the duties of my new position at the 27th Arab summit in this beloved place in our great Arab world, Nouakchott, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, a venerable Arab metropolis that has proudly maintained its special identity throughout history and has been a beacon of culture, enlightened thought and Arab-African cultural synthesis.

I would like to extend to President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz and the Mauritanian people and Government the heartfelt gratitude of the delegation of the Secretariat for the gracious hospitality and warm welcome, which are so characteristic of your noble Arab people. I would also like to congratulate you on the assumption of the Chair of the Arab summit and for your splendid organization of the summit. I trust that your Chair of the new session will be busy, effective and fruitful.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his discerning leadership at the helm of joint Arab action during his Chair of the 26th session of the Arab summit, his considerable efforts in the service of joint Arab action and for most capably and responsibly defending Arab issues and the security of the Arab States.

As you all know, defending Arab issues and the security of the Arab States is my primary mission upon assuming my responsibilities as the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at the start of this month. I would therefore like to present to you my brief, preliminary vision of the main topics and issues of joint Arab action, bearing in mind that I am currently engaged in studying a number of files which I will ask the States members to dispose of in the coming period.

1. I would like to emphasize on this auspicious occasion that I will be the guarantor of the joint Arab action process according to its treaties, regulations and rules. I will maintain the impartiality of the Secretariat vis-à-vis all States members. I will seek to use all my abilities to promote the role of the League in word and deed, develop its performance and expand the scope of its activity according to the will of the States members and the aspirations of our Arab peoples.

2. I am well aware of the gravity of my responsibility and the magnitude of the challenges facing the League in the current environment of the Arab world. I believe in the necessity for Arab integration in its broad sense. The Arab League is an institutional framework that embraces Arab solidarity. It is the firm tie that preserves our identity and existence.

After trying to assess the League's current situation, I have reached the conclusion that the League is in urgent need of renewal, updating and the necessary financing for this purpose in order to keep pace with the changes sweeping the region and to evolve to be able to help maintain our countries' independence and sovereignty.

3. We must be vigilant about what is happening in our region, as we are concerned for our fate and the future of our countries first and foremost. Action to halt the deterioration and fragmentation occurring in a number of Arab countries must not be left to others. We must intensify Arab action to improve our situation, regain the initiative and act in an Arab framework. We must review the ways for addressing a number of Arab crises in view of the League's diminished or non-existent role in handling such crises in past years. The League is more qualified than international organizations to bring about the necessary and desired settlements and reconciliations.

4. The Arab nation is fighting a fierce war against terrorism. This cursed scourge is worse than ever before. It is striking inside Arab societies without mercy. Victory in the war against terrorism and extremism requires the development of mechanisms and techniques that ensure the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Council of the League in September 2014. It requires the development of agreements and commitments concerning Arab cooperation and coordination and the mobilization of Arab resources to lead a regional and international movement to eliminate terrorism, which has adopted the Arab world as a base and theatre for its destructive, criminal operations. I see terrorism as threatening the fundamentals of the nation state and distorting the tolerant creed of Islam. The settlement of political crises and the restoration of stability in troubled regions will undoubtedly help dry up the springs, swamps, and incubators of terrorist organizations, which are destroying any semblance of life and stability in the Arab societies.

5. The Palestinian issue, the end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem are top priorities for collective Arab political action. Developments in the Palestinian issue in recent years and the extremely intransigent, arrogant positions of Israel on a political solution in general and a two-state solution in particular have, in my assessment, come to require new political approaches. Such approaches must be creative and earnest. They must seek to rebalance the international equation for dealing with the requirements for achieving a permanent, just peace. This requires taking advantage of the recent signs of international momentum towards rescuing the two-State solution from oblivion.

6. There is a trend towards the development of an integrated Arab plan. The League has a leading role in coalescing Arab wills around the plan. This requires continuing all efforts conducive to building cohesive Arab societies that keep pace with the times.

Arab societies are proud of their past. They do not let the past fetter their present or future. They look forward confidently to building a promising future for our youth and safe, stable societies that engage in dialogue, not internecine fighting, and that promote noble religious values devoid of extremism or resort to violence.

7. The stability of the Arab States, mobilization of their capabilities and protection of their security are the launch pad for development projects. For this purpose, we must create a climate of regional stability based on respect for the values of good

neighbourliness, non-intervention in the domestic affairs of the Arab States and interaction with changes in a way that preserves Arab interests first and foremost.

8. Our review of a number of features of joint Arab action leads me to stress the need to review economic projects for Arab integration, which are currently experiencing difficulties. We must first review the method for completing the Greater Arab Free-Trade Area in preparation for introducing the Arab Customs Union. We must also examine the implementation of several vital projects among the Arab States in the area of ground and maritime transportation, the linkage of electricity grids, the strategy for encouraging investments in the Arab region, the Arab Food Security Project and social policies. Regarding social policies, the most important issues relate to poverty reduction, empowerment of women and youth, protection of children, maintenance of human rights and other key issues affirmed by successive Arab summits. The Arab States as a group are called upon to implement the Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030 and two submit periodic reports on progress achieved in this regard. Therefore, I have decided to propose an Arab coordination mechanism for following up this important subject.

Excellencies, your Majesties,

I pray that God grant us success in our activities in leading this nation in this critical time and in transforming the slogan of hope under which this summit has convened into a tangible reality which the masses of Arab people can experience and be optimistic about. Optimism has become a rare commodity which we could all use in these difficult days.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

List of Arab leaders and heads of delegations of Arab States participating in the 27th ordinary session of the Arab summit (Summit 27/(16/07)/11-Miscellaneous (0277))

(Arranged according to the Arabic alphabetical order)

- His Excellency Hani Mulki, Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Member of the Federal Supreme Council, Ruler of The Emirate of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates
- His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, Bahrain
- His Excellency Khemais Jhinaoui, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Tunisia
- His Excellency Abdul Qadir Bin Saleh, Speaker of Parliament, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- President Ismaël Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti
- His Excellency Adel Al-Jubeir, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan
- ---------- ------ ------, Syrian Arab Republic
- His Excellency Abdusalam Hadliyeh Omer, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion, Federal Republic of Somalia
- His Excellency Ibrahim al-Ushayqir Al-Jaafari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Iraq
- His Highness Asaad bin Tareq Al Said, Representative of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the Sultanate of Oman
- His Excellency Mr. Riad Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs, State of Palestine
- His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar
- President Azali Assoumali, President of the Republic of the Comoros
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait
- His Excellency Tammam Salam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon
- His Excellency Faiez Mustafa Serraj, President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya
- His Excellency Sherif Ismail, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- His Excellency Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco
- His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- His Excellency Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen